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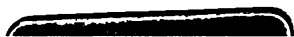
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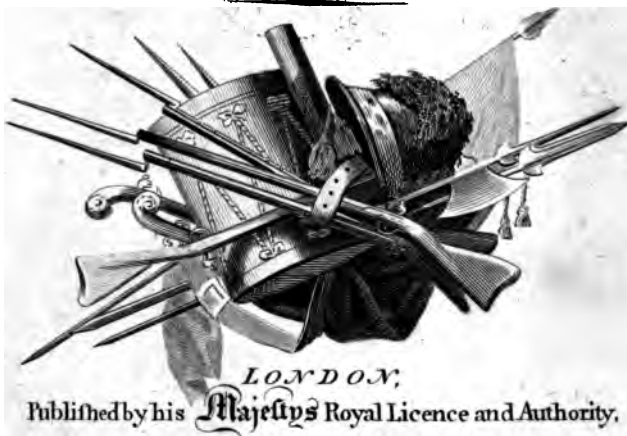
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
W A R
WITH
AMERICA, FRANCE, SPAIN,
AND
H O L L A N D ;

commencing in 1775 and ending in 1783

By JOHN ANDREWS LL.D.

In Four Volumes with Portraits, Maps and Charts

Vol. IV.



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H I S T O R Y

OF THE

W A R, &c.

CHAP. LII.

*Armed Neutrality. — Conduct of Holland. — Successes of
Admiral Rodney.*

1780.

WHILE the foregoing transactions were taking place in America, a new and unexpected scene was preparing in Europe, which marked in a peculiar manner the opening of the ensuing year.

The jealousy entertained by the maritime powers in Europe, of the power and pre-eminence exercised by Great Britain at sea, had operated hitherto but covertly and indirectly. Expecting that the union of the House of Bourbon would have proved sufficient to check it effectually, they had remained passive spectators of a contest, which they imagined would not fail to terminate to the disadvantage of this country : so great and potent a combination as that of America, France, and Spain, seemed to promise, without any additional aid, to bring the maritime strength of Britain to that state of diminution, which was the general wish and aim of European politics.

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But when it was found that the spirit and exertions of Britain were such as afforded little hope that even this mighty confederacy would succeed in compassing this long desired object, a determination was taken by all the remaining powers to form a naval combination, in order to effect it.

Pretences for a measure of this kind were not wanting. The activity and number of British privateers, had rendered them universal objects of terror, not only to the commercial shipping of their enemies, but to the many vessels belonging to other powers, that were employed in furnishing them with such articles as were not consistent with a strict and fair neutrality. Goods coming under this description, in the plainest and most uncontrovertible manner were often made, nevertheless, a subject of litigation; and the letter of treaties was wrested, in order to put a wrong interpretation upon them, in evident contradiction of the spirit by which they were dictated.

As the British ministry insisted, on the other hand, upon the propriety and lawfulness of seizing articles of this nature, contentions arose between Great Britain and the various powers to which the vessels laden with such articles belonged. The right of preventing supplies from being carried to the enemy was so manifest, that nothing but an inclination to make use of any opportunity to quarrel with this nation, could have prompted that eagerness with which all Europe seemed to conspire in refusing to admit the validity of the arguments upon which the conduct of the British government was founded.

The principles alledged in its defence were derived from ancient and long received practice.— They had for ages constituted that part of the law of nations which relates to the usages established in civilized countries in times of war. They formed so

so powerful a barrier to the designs in agitation against Great Britain, that while their validity was allowed, no just complaint could be framed against the conduct of the British ministry.

The only method remaining therefore to arraign it, was to call in question the rectitude of those principles, and to establish a new system of maritime laws, contrary to those which had been so long in force. By these means the pretences of Britain would be overthrown; and the right she claimed of intercepting the supplies carried to her enemies, would be entirely annulled.

That power which took the lead in the promulgation of this new system was Russia; one that ought, according to all the rules of what seemed just policy, to have acted a friendly part to Britain, and discountenanced a measure which tended so manifestly to detriment her in a material degree.

It was under the protection of ancient maxims and customs, that Britain maintained the arduous conflict against so many powerful enemies with no small success. It was for that reason alone that Europe determined they should undergo a total alteration.

Whatever might be the secret motives for so extraordinary a determination in the court of Russia, it was with just surprize the Court of Great Britain received notice that it had formed a code of naval regulations, which militated in the directest manner against the practices hitherto observed in Europe, and were evidently levelled at the maritime power of this country.

It was a matter of peculiar astonishment, that Russia should be at the head of a combination so injurious to Great Britain. The favours she had received from the British ministry, in her late war with the Turks, and still more the commercial benefits resulting from a connection with this country, seemed

to secure the good will of Russia, and even its assistance, in case of necessity. Little therefore was it expected that it should prove the first of all European potentates in that inimical declaration, the intent of which was to deprive Great Britain of the principal resources that enabled her to stand her ground in the midst of so many difficulties.

The purport of this celebrated declaration was, that the navigation of neutral powers should remain as free and unobstructed in time of war as in that of peace ; and that, provided their ships were not laden with contraband goods, they should enjoy the liberty of conveying, free of seizure and restraint, all other articles whatever, though belonging to the subjects of the powers at war.

This declaration, so contradictory to the ideas and practice that had hitherto prevailed, was received with much apparent submission and deference by the Courts of France and Spain, of which it strongly forwarded the views. Great Britain, contrary to her custom and character, was obliged to temporise on this trying occasion. Her answer to this mortifying declaration, though guardedly expressed, was not wanting in terms sufficiently clear to remind Russia how different a part Great Britain had acted to her in the day of need.

In taking a step of so unprecedented a nature, Russia had previously used the precaution of securing the concurrence of all her neighbours. So formidable was the impression of the power and spirit of Britain, notwithstanding the perils that surrounded her, that none of the northern powers durst presume, alone and unsupported by the others, to enter the lists against Britain in so hostile and decisive a manner.

Denmark and Sweden joined accordingly with Russia in this naval confederacy ; to which Holland, and even Portugal itself, were invited to accede. So prevalent,

valent, and so powerful was the universal malevolence to Britain, and so unquestionably was it reputed the interest of Europe to co-operate in the humiliation of her maritime grandeur ! In this manner was formed that universal association of the neutral powers in Europe against Great Britain, which assumed the denomination of " Armed Neutrality."

Of all those states whose conduct was inimical to Britain during the contest with America, none afforded juster cause of resentment than that of Holland. Since the commencement of that unhappy quarrel, a clandestine commerce had been carried on between the Dutch and the Americans, highly prejudicial to the affairs of Great Britain. The encouragement given to the revolted colonies was open and manifest: they were not only furnished with all manner of supplies, but undisguised countenance and respect were shewn to their flag, in a manner incompatible with the honour and dignity of Great Britain.

Representations had frequently been made to the States General of this impropriety of conduct in their subjects, by the British Ambassador at the Hague, Sir Joseph Yorke; who complained in a memorial presented in the month of February, seventy-seven, of the disregard shewn to several antecedent remonstrances, and insisted on a behaviour in future more satisfactory to the court of Britain; insinuating, that in case of non-compliance, due resentment would be shewn.

Though a respectful answer was returned to this remonstrance, the correspondence still continued between the Dutch and the Americans on the same footing as before.

On the rupture with France, this unfriendly disposition towards Great Britain on the part of Holland was exhibited more openly, and exerted with a higher hand than ever. The dock-yards of France

were supplied with all kind of materials for the construction and equipment of fleets, with as much readiness and assiduity, as if France and Holland had formed the closest alliance against Britain.

Though incensed at such unprovoked usage, Britain went no further than to seize those Dutch vessels that were loaded with naval stores for the French ports. The States of Holland pleaded the letter of a treaty made a century ago; but they were given to understand, that nothing could be more ungenerous and unjust than to insist on the fulfilling of a treaty which the circumstances of the present time rendered inadmissible: Britain could not permit Holland to supply France with naval stores, without exposing herself to imminent danger. There were a numberless variety of other articles in trade, from the importation of which into France the Dutch might derive immense profits, without furnishing that power with the means of injuring Great Britain.

In order to take away all pretences of complaint from the Dutch, the British government, instead of making prizes of the vessels laden with these hostile cargoes, came to the generous determination to purchase at a fair valuation, all the naval stores that were on board the Dutch vessels brought into the ports of Great Britain, to pay the freight of the cargoes, and to indemnify the proprietors in all the just expences and damages occasioned by the detention of their vessels.

While the court of Great Britain was repeatedly complaining of the obstinacy with which the Dutch merchants continued to furnish the French with naval stores, these, on the other hand, presented a memorial to the States, remonstrating against the seizure of their vessels employed in that business, and requiring protection for their prosecuting it in safety.

France,

France, in the mean time, conscious of the necessity of procuring this resource to her marine, insisted peremptorily on its being protected by the States, in the same manner as every other branch of the Dutch trade. So strenuous was the French ministry in asserting the propriety of this measure, that it threatened to consider a relaxation of the demands made upon Great Britain by Holland as an infraction of the neutrality which Holland was bound to observe between France and Great Britain, and as an evident proof of partiality to the latter. The French Ambassador presented a memorial to the States on this subject, urging them, in the most pressing manner, to an effectual and speedy compliance with the requisition of his Court.

In order to encourage the importation of naval stores, a regulation was issued in France in the month of July, seventy-eight, by which such various advantages were granted to neutral vessels, as accorded with the views of being supplied through their means with the necessaries for her navy. But, on the States not complying with the requisition of the French ministry in the manner proposed, these advantages were revoked with respect to the subjects of Holland, the city of Amsterdam, alone excepted; which had warmly espoused the cause of France, and demanded of the States the equipment of a squadron for the protection of its navigation to that kingdom, against the British cruizers.

Notwithstanding the authority assumed by the Court of France, in prescribing to the Dutch in what manner they should observe their treaties with Great Britain, the French faction in Holland was so powerful, that instead of resenting this freedom, it was represented as justifiable and well-founded. Clamours in the mean time increased against the British government; and it was described as aiming

at an exclusive right of framing laws for the commercial correspondence between different states.

On the accession of Spain to the confederacy against Great Britain, fresh representations were made to the states, on the necessity of prohibiting the exportation of naval stores to her enemies; but they had no more effect than the former: the difficulties wherein Britain was involved, seemed, on the contrary, to have infused into the people of Holland a stronger desire to add to the distresses of the British nation.

A formal demand was now made upon Holland, on the part of Great Britain, for the succours stipulated by the treaties subsisting between them. The dangers that menaced both states from the family-compact of the House of Bourbon, were laid before the Dutch, in their strongest colours. But whatever might be the real cause of their averfeness to listen to the representations from the court of Great Britain; whether they were intimidated by the vast power displayed by its numerous enemies, or influenced by an invincible jealousy, they still continued in the same unfriendly disposition. No answer was given to the memorial; and all appearances tended to prove a fixed determination to act an inimical part towards Great Britain.

In the beginning of the year eighty, a fleet of merchantmen, laden with naval stores for the French navy, sailed from Holland under the convoy of a squadron of men of war. Intelligence of this being brought to England, a squadron was dispatched, under Commodore Fielding, to intercept them. On meeting the Dutch fleet, he requested permission to search them, as usual; but this was denied, contrary to the right of treaty. Hereupon he sent his boats, with orders to insist upon the examination of the cargoes; but they were fired upon by the Dutch commander, Count Byland, and prevented from executing

cutting those orders. Commodore Fielding, upon this, fired a shot a-head of the Dutch Admiral, who returned it with a broadside; Captain Fielding replied with another; and the former struck his colours. In the mean time most of the Dutch vessels laden with naval stores, had found means to escape. They proceeded on their voyage, and arrived safe in the French ports; where they brought naval supplies in abundance, and which at that time were very much wanted.

The remainder of the Dutch fleet was carried into Portsmouth; whither it was accompanied by Count Byland, who refused to forsake it, though permission was given him to continue his voyage with the squadron under his command.

The complaints of the States General were loud and violent upon this occasion; and yet they had manifestly violated the right of search established by treaty, and never yet called into question.

What rendered the conduct of the Dutch still more offensive, was, that while they assisted the enemies of Great Britain in this open decided manner, they forbade their subjects, under heavy penalties, to furnish the garrison of Gibraltar with provisions, notwithstanding Spain had at that very time behaved to the Dutch in a manner equally disrespectful and injurious to their interest.

This conduct betrayed a strange forgetfulness of the strong ties by which they were connected with Britain, and of the evident necessity of preserving that balance of power in Europe, in which Holland was more concerned than any state upon the continent. It shewed with what efficacy the enemies of Britain had exerted themselves, in overturning the political system that had so long prevailed in that republic; and how opposite those maxims they had introduced, were to that close and intimate friendship with the British nation, of which the utility
had

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had been proved by the experience of two centuries.

Incessant at these continual provocations, the Court of Great Britain resolved at length to express itself in terms so clear and decisive, as to draw an explicit answer from the States respecting their ultimate intentions to this country.

Towards the close of March, eighty, the British Ambassador at the Hague was directed to renew the requisition for the succours to which Great Britain was intitled by several treaties. It was now eight months since it had been laid before the Assembly of the States, during which time it had lain wholly unnoticed. He expostulated with them accordingly with great force and dignity : he reminded them of the many motives that should induce them to live in the strictest amity with Britain : and concluded by informing them, that if a favourable answer was not returned to his requisitions within the space of three weeks, the Court of Great Britain would look upon such refusal as a breach of the alliance on the part of Holland ; and would consider the Republic in no other light than as a neutral state, not privileged to particular favours by any treaty, and as having, by its conduct, made void all those that subsisted between both states.

The reply to this memorial, was, that the time prescribed was too limited for an answer to be given to it conformably to the rules and constitutions of the Republic. But this reply was viewed by the British ministry as a mere evasion. As the States General had been eight months in possession of the request now repeated, full leisure had been allowed them to deliberate upon it ; and it was unbecoming to require any longer space for consultation.

In consequence of the answer given to the British Ambassador, it was now resolved at the court of Great Britain, to put in force, conformable to the notice



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notice he had given, the suspension of the privileges enjoyed by the subjects of Holland, in virtue of the concessions made in their favour by former treaties. After waiting the space of time notified, no satisfactory answer being returned, a declaration was published, wherein, after a circumstantial representation of the conduct observed by Holland since the commencement of hostilities, the above resolution was formally specified.

In the mean time, the British ministry was fully occupied in providing for the various possessions of Great Britain in foreign parts that were menaced by her numerous enemies. Among other places, Gibraltar was now closely invested, and pressed both at land and sea by the fleets and armies of Spain. Immediately on this Court's declaring its accession to the confederacy formed by France and America against Britain, Gibraltar was blockaded; and all means of supplying it with necessaries industriously cut off on every side.

The great abilities and valour of General Elliot, the Governor, afforded the best founded expectation of its making a vigorous defence: but the scantiness and uncertainty of the supplies it had received since the beginning of the siege, began to be very alarming; and it was now time it should be relieved in a regular and sufficient manner to enable it to continue a successful resistance.

To this purpose a strong squadron was prepared; and the command of it given to Sir George Rodney, whose services in the last war had recommended him to the notice of government. He fell in, a few days after sailing from England; with a Spanish fleet of sixteen transports, bound from Bilboa to Cales: they were laden with provisions and naval stores, and convoyed by a ship of sixty-four guns, four frigates, and two armed vessels. Only one transport escaped; the rest were taken: and proved a heavy
loss

loss to the enemy; who were at that time in want of both provisions and materials for their shipping. This capture took place on the eighth of January, eighty.

On the sixteenth, a Spanish squadron, of eleven sail of the line, was discovered off the Cape St. Vincent. As the day was far advanced, in order to reach them the sooner, the British Admiral made the signal for a general chase, to engage as the ships came up, by rotation, and to take the lee-gage, in order to prevent the enemy from retreating into their own ports.

The action began at four in the afternoon; the headmost ships in the British squadron closing in with the nearest of the enemy. In about half an hour one of their ships, mounting seventy guns, and carrying six hundred men, blew up; and they all perished. After two hours fight, another Spanish ship of the line was taken. The action continued with great vigour on both sides, till two o'clock in the morning, when the headmost ship of the enemy struck to the Sandwich: after which they ceased firing.

The weather was so tempestuous during the night, that it was with extreme difficulty possession could be taken of those ships that had surrendered. They were six in number; of which two went on shore, and were lost, and the other four were brought safe into Gibraltar. They consisted of the Spanish Admiral's own ship, of eighty guns, and seven hundred men,—and three of seventy guns, and six hundred men.

This engagement happened so near the shore, and the British ships were so eager in securing the lee gage, to prevent the enemy's escape, that Admiral Rodney's ship, and some of the largest in the fleet, were in great danger of running on the shoals off the coast of St. Lucar: nor did they return into deep

deep water till after much labour, and the exertion of great seamanship.

The behaviour of the Spaniards in this conflict was very brave and spirited: but notwithstanding their gallant behaviour, it was the opinion of all who were present in the action, that had it taken place by day, or the weather been less boisterous, not one of them would have escaped. Those that did, were so considerably damaged, as to be unfit for service.

The Spanish Admiral, Don Juan de Langara, behaved with great courage; and did not surrender till after an obstinate resistance. The ship he struck to was commanded by Captain Macbride. Having the small pox on board, a distemper of which the Spaniards are remarkably apprehensive, he notified it to the enemy; offering to send a party of his own people on board of them, without shifting any of theirs to his own ship, provided the Spanish Admiral and his officers would pledge their honour that the British seamen should not be interrupted in the possession of their prize. This humane proposal was accepted with the highest expressions of gratitude, and complied with in every point that had been required, with the utmost honour and punctuality.

The consequences of this important victory, were the complete relief of Gibraltar and of Minorca; both of which, till this event, had been considered as in a state of imminent peril.

After performing these services, Admiral Rodney sailed for the West Indies; where he was commissioned to assume the chief command. Admiral Digby proceeded home with the fleet and the prizes; and had the good fortune to fall in with a French man of war of sixty-four guns, which he took. It conveyed, with another ship of the line, a large number of ships bound to the islands of Mauritius, with military stores and recruits. They were too
far

far distant when first perceived, to be pursued with success; and only three of the store-ships were taken; the rest escaped with the other ship of the line, and reached their destination.

These various successes occasioned uncommon satisfaction in England. They came at a critical season; and contributed powerfully, not only to raise the spirit of the British nation, but to damp the hopes that had been formed in France and Spain, of striking a decisive blow at the opening of the naval campaign, by the re-union of the French and Spanish navies. The best officers and seamen in the marine-service of Spain, were in the squadron that had been taken or destroyed; and the ships themselves were in the best condition of any in the Spanish navy.

Sir George Rodney was honoured upon this occasion with an unanimous vote of thanks from both Houses of Parliament. Their consideration of his services was so warm, that they zealously recommended him as deserving of the most signal notice and recompence on the part of the Crown. In this they were the more urgent, as the Admiral's domestic affairs were in much disorder when he was appointed to the command of the expedition, wherein he had been so successful. There were also other motives for wishing to see him provided for in an honourable and liberal manner. Among others, he had, while in France, refused some very advantageous proffers, conveyed to him through persons of the first distinction; who had strongly urged him to enter into the naval service of that crown. But though the prospects held out to him were very brilliant, and he was at the time in circumstances of distress, he nobly refused to take part with the enemies of his country.

CHAP. LIII.

Charlestown taken by Sir Henry Clinton. — Successes of Lord Cornwallis.

1780.

THE preceding campaign had terminated very disadvantageously to the Americans. The maritime force of the New England provinces had been almost wholly destroyed at Penobscot; and they had suffered a great and mortifying defeat at Savannah. The mighty projects formed by D'Eſtaing had been frustrated in the completest manner: he had been vanquished, and compelled to retire with a shattered fleet and a broken army. Unable to prosecute any further operations, he was now returned to France; and the Colonies were again left to their sole exertions, with little prospect of receiving any assistance from their French allies, in sufficient time to obviate effectually the attempts that might be made, in consequence of the superiority now obtained by the British forces.

While the fate of D'Eſtaing was in suspense, the apprehension that he could not fail of success with such a superior strength, obliged the British commanders at New York, to make all necessary preparations for a vigorous defence. General Washington had collected all the strength he could muster from the contiguous provinces, and was advancing towards that city, in order to be at hand to co-operate in the attack concerted between him and the French Admiral.

The necessity of adding materially to the numbers that would be requisite to make head against so formidable an enemy, occasioned the garrison of Rhode

Rhode Island to be recalled from that station, to reinforce the troops at New York. Thus, had the French commander succeeded at Savannah, it was much to be doubted, whether he would have been equally successful in the subsequent part of his design.

But his defeat and expulsion from Georgia having given a new turn to affairs, a different plan of operations took place of course in the councils of the British commanders at New York : the disappointment experienced by the Americans had greatly dispirited them. The troops that had resorted to General Washington from various parts, in full confidence of putting an end to the war by a decisive blow, now returned home in high discontent, and bitterly complaining that no reliance could be placed on their new ally ; from whom they had hitherto received great promises, but little effects.

In this state of public dissatisfaction among the Americans, it was resolved to carry the British arms southward ; where the distance from the center of the enemy's strength opened a fair prospect of success, and where an impression upon them would be more severely felt than elsewhere, from the greater value of the countries, of which reduction was in view, in point of riches, and commercial produce, and importance.

The possession of Georgia afforded a ready access to the large and valuable Province of Carolina. From this motive, and those above mentioned, it was determined to make this the object of an expedition, while the enemy's force was in a great measure scattered and dispersed by the disbanding of the major part of the army under General Washington, and the splitting of the other corps into numerous detachments, for the purpose of protecting the various places that were liable to be attacked.

Towards

Towards the close of the year seventy-nine, Sir Henry Clinton embarked with a considerable land-force, under the convoy of a strong squadron, commanded by Admiral Arbuthnot. Their destination was Savannah; but their progress was much retarded by contrary winds and stormy weather: They did not arrive off the coast of Georgia till the expiration of January.

On the twelfth of February the army was safely landed on the islands in the vicinity of Charles-Town; and from thence proceeded to the banks of Ashley's river; between which and Cooper's river that town is situated.

Here he was obliged to remain a considerable time, waiting for the arrival of the necessary stores and implements for the carrying on of the intended siege of that place. This delay was chiefly occasioned by the loss of the principal ordnance ship, which was sunk in a gale of wind on the passage from New-York, and by the loss of the draft-horses belonging to the artillery.

Owing to these, and a multitude of other impediments, several of them arising from the nature of the climate, and of the ground that was the scene of action, it was near the close of March before the British forces crossed the river Ashley. This motion was made under the protection of the armed galleys. The boats of the fleet landed the whole army, with the artillery and stores requisite for the siege, without any resistance on the part of the enemy.

From the deficiency of battering cannon, occasioned by the loss of the ordnance ship, the British General was obliged to have recourse to the Admiral, for a supply of pieces of heavy metal. A sufficient number were in consequence landed, with a detachment of seamen, under the command of Captain Elphinstone.

The day after the army had made good its passage over Ashley river, it advanced to Charles Town. It broke ground within eight hundred yards of the enemy's works, in the night of the first of April; and in seven days after, had perfected the batteries proposed, and mounted them with cannon.

On the eighth of April Admiral Arbuthnot forced his way into Charles Town harbour, under a heavy fire from Fort Sullivan, which damaged several of his ships. He took complete possession of all the different passes, and entirely blockaded the town on that side.

The gaining of the harbour of Charles Town was the heavier a disappointment, as the Americans were firmly persuaded, from the vigorous and fortunate resistance made by Fort Sullivan, two years before, that it would have obstructed the entrance of the British squadron with the like success.

Depending on the efficacy of the defence it would make, they had moored several ships and galleys in a position to make a raking fire on the British squadron, on its approaching the fort; and doubted not being able to reduce it to such a condition, as to frustrate all expectations of succeeding in any attempt of that nature.

They had also, as a further means of prevention, sunk in the channel leading to the town, four large frigates, with several merchant ships, fitted with chevaux de frize on their decks, in the manner of those that had been formerly sunk in the Delaware to the same intent. An immense boom was also extended across this channel. It was composed of spars, chains, and cables, secured together by ships masts; and it was defended on the side of the town by strong batteries, mounting upwards of forty pieces of heavy cannon.

These obstacles being surmounted, and the British squadron having taken possession of the harbour,

Sir

Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot jointly summoned the town to surrender; but General Lincoln, who commanded there, answered, That he would defend it to the last extremity.

On this refusal, the batteries were opened on the ninth of April, and operated with such effect, as quickly to abate the fire of the enemy. The works were carried on with so much spirit and activity, that the besiegers in a few days approached within little more than four hundred yards of the town.

In order to cut off the communication between the town and country, a detachment of chosen men was formed; the command of which was given to Colonel Webster, an officer of noted skill and bravery: he was accompanied by Colonel Tarleton, with a body of cavalry; and by Major Ferguson, with a party of light infantry.

The enterprize they were sent upon was attended with a variety of difficulties. They had rivers to cross, and other arduous operations to execute, in presence of an enemy strongly posted, and who had a very superior cavalry. It was principally at this corps their efforts were aimed. Through the great diligence and dexterity of Colonel Tarleton, it was surprized and totally defeated. This obstruction being removed, Colonel Webster advanced into the country, and seized all the principal passes; by which means the town was now completely invested.

These successes enabled the British army to carry on the siege with additional vigour. The enemy, on the other hand, made a no less resolute defence. They had used great industry in fortifying the place. The neck of land inclosed between the two rivers, Ashley and Cooper, was a continued chain of lines, redoubts, and batteries. At their extremities, towards both rivers, they were covered by deep swamps, communicating by a canal cut along their

their front. In the intermediate space between these works and the body of the place, were two rows of fallen trees, fixed into the earth, in the manner of a fraise-work : behind these was a double picketed ditch. In the center of the lines they had constructed a kind of citadel : the artillery mounted on these different works, consisted of eighty pieces of cannon and mortars.

The siege of Charles Town had in the mean while greatly alarmed the contiguous provinces. Sensible how much it behoved them to preserve a place of such importance, they were exerting their utmost endeavours to raise a force sufficient to its relief. The defeat of the troops in the neighbourhood of Charles Town, by Colonel Webster, had greatly disconcerted them. But that which they regretted most, was the destruction of their cavalry by Colonel Tarleton. They were at uncommon pains to repair this loss ; and with much industry and expence collected another body of horse, which was immediately dispatched to the assistance of the troops that were advancing from various quarters to the aid of the besieged : but on receiving intelligence of their approach, Colonel Tareton was ordered to attack them. He executed his commission with so much success, that almost the whole corps was either taken or destroyed ; and all the horses with their accoutrements fell into the hands of the victors.

While these successes were obtained in the country bordering upon Charles Town, Admiral Arbuthnot was exerting himself with no less vigour and good fortune on that side which lay towards the sea. He formed a brigade of seamen and marines, with which he made himself master of forts Mountpleasant and Sullivan. The garrison of the first abandoned it without resistance ; and that of the second surrendered by capitulation.

By

By the sixth of May the besiegers had pushed their works to the canal that connected the two swamps on the right and left, and had almost drained it. They passed it three days after, and advanced towards the ditch next to the body of the place.

In this extremity, finding that no relief was to be expected, and the British army was preparing for a general assault, the American Governor proposed to deliver up the town on terms which had already been offered him; but which he had rejected.

By these terms it was agreed, that the American troops and seamen were to remain prisoners of war till exchanged; but not to be despoiled of their private property; the militia to return to their dwellings, there to abide as prisoners on their parole; on keeping which, they were to be secure from all molestation. The citizens of Charles Town to be comprehended in this article. The subjects of France and Spain to retain their effects, with permission to leave the place; but to continue prisoners on parole.

The British army took possession of Charles Town on the twelfth of May. The prisoners made on this occasion amounted to upwards of six thousand; among whom were a thousand seamen. Seven general officers were taken; and a prodigious number of others, from the eagerness with which all those who were in the vicinity of Charles Town repaired to its defence.

The artillery that fell into the hands of the victors, consisted of near four hundred pieces; and the shipping, of four large frigates, and a great quantity of boats, with considerable supplies of military stores.

The consequence of the reduction of Charles Town, was a general discouragement of the people

in the neighbouring provinces ; and no little alarm and discontent throughout the continent, when the vast expectations excited by D'Estaing were contrasted with his failure, and the successes of the British arms under Sir Henry Clinton.

As no doubt was entertained that he would lose no opportunity of improving them to the utmost, great pains were taken by the Americans to collect with all possible speed, a force sufficient to make some stand, till a proper army could be formed. To this purpose detachments from several parts were drawn to the borders of North Carolina, where it was naturally expected the motions of the British army would next be directed.

On receiving this intelligence, Lord Cornwallis marched up the country situated along the banks of the river Santee. The enemy were posted at a place called Wacshaw, on the boundary line between North and South Carolina, distant from him upwards of one hundred miles. Colonel Tarleton was again selected to command a chosen body, in order to attack them before they could be reinforced. He travelled with such expedition, that he reached them on the third day of his march. Upon refusing to surrender on the terms he proffered, which were the same that had been granted to the garrison of Charles Town, he attacked them with so much courage and skill, that they were nearly all either killed in the action, or wounded and made prisoners, with all their artillery and baggage. This was the third victory obtained by means of the British cavalry, commanded by Colonel Tarleton. Their numbers, both in this and the foregoing engagements, were inferior to those of the enemy ; but the men were chosen troopers, and admirably expert at the management of their horses and arms.

This action decided for the present the fate of Carolina. The bravery exhibited by the British troops during

during the whole of this service, had been remarkably conspicuous. Both the naval and military branches co-operated with a warmth and emulation that struck a damp upon the enemy from the very beginning. Among those who chiefly distinguished themselves, besides those that have been mentioned, was Major Moncrief, so deservedly celebrated for his defence of Savannah, in the capacity of engineer against Count D'Estaing. He acquired no less glory in his conduct of the attack upon Charles Town; where he displayed a genius and abilities that gained him the highest admiration.

All resistance now fell before the British arms in South Carolina. It was considered as completely reduced; and arrangements were in consequence taken by Sir Henry Clinton to secure its possession against all future attempts from the enemy. Most of the people in the Province were either prisoners, or professed adherence to the cause of Britain.

Encouraged by these flattering appearances, he issued several proclamations, in order to excite the well-affected to behave with attachment and fidelity; and to deter the opposite party from causing any disturbances. The plan he proposed to follow in the establishment of that Province, was to render all persons acknowledging allegiance to the British government, instrumental in its defence. To this intent they were divided in two classes of militia: such men as had families, were allotted to the guard of their respective districts: such as had none, were to be embodied in the same manner as the others under their own officers, and to be employed in conjunction with the British troops, in repelling invasions, and keeping the enemy out of the Province. They were not, however, to march beyond the limits of Georgia and North Carolina; and after serving six months out of the ensuing

twelve, in the manner prescribed, they were to be exempted from all but the common duties of the militia.

Sir Henry Clinton had promised himself great utility from these regulations. He was certainly well founded in his expectations. A loyal and affectionate address had been presented to him and Admiral Arbuthnot, a few days after the reduction of Charles Town, signed by two hundred and ten of the principal inhabitants. Numbers came in also from every part of the country, declaring their allegiance, and offering their services in support of the British government. Many of them, in proof of their fidelity, had seized their leaders, and brought them prisoners to the British quarters.

During the expedition of Sir Henry Clinton to Charles Town, the city of New York was exposed, by the severity of the winter that followed after his departure, to the greatest danger it had experienced ever since its reduction by the British army in the year seventy-six. The frost began with the year eighty, and lasted with unremitting violence till towards the close of February. The rivers in the neighbourhood of New York, and the streights and channels between the circumjacent islands, were so firmly frozen, as to bear the heaviest weight of waggons or carriages of any kind.

The British commanders in that city were justly apprehensive that the enemies would not fail to avail themselves of so favourable an opportunity of making an attempt upon it. As it was now united to the continent by the plains of ice that surrounded it on every side, its situation was become extremely dangerous; and called up their whole attention and endeavours to put it in a state of defence against the attacks to which it was so widely exposed.

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All that were able to bear arms were employed upon this occasion. As the ships of war were fast locked in the ice, their seamen came ashore, and were formed into companies under their own officers. The crews of the transports and other vessels had also their stations appointed them. The body of sailors that did duty, amounted to upwards of fifteen hundred; and the citizens that were embodied, to near three thousand. This was an essential addition to the regular troops, and removed all apprehension on account of any attempt from the enemy.

Apprized of these preparations, the Americans did not think proper to form any enterprize against that city: they contented themselves with harassing some out-posts; without meeting however, with any success. Neither was the situation of General Washington such as to enable him to undertake so daring a project as the attack of New York, in the circumstances of strength it had now acquired. His army was considerably diminished by the departure of those numbers whose time of service was expired; and the winter was too severe to expect any recruits before the inclemency of the weather was abated.

The most agreeable consequence resulting from the criticalness of this emergency, was the proof given by multitudes of the Americans of their sincere attachment to the cause of Britain. Most of the volunteers raised among the inhabitants of New York, were clothed and armed at their own expence; and they underwent the fatigue and hardships incident to the season, and the occasion that had called them forth, with great spirit and alacrity.

In the mean while the specious appearances of submission in the Province of South Carolina, did not last long after the departure of Sir Henry Clinton. The aversion to the British government was
so

so deeply rooted in the dispositions of the inhabitants, that numbers of them were daily offering their property to sale on the best terms they could find, in order to quit that Province. But as many of these were largely indebted to British subjects, a proclamation was issued by Lord Cornwallis, prohibiting the disposal of property and the removal of individuals, without a special permission first obtained.

The loyal party in North Carolina, encouraged by the successes of the British arms, began now to meditate an insurrection in their favour; but they were so narrowly watched, that they found it impossible to carry such a design into any effectual execution. Hurried by their impatience, and prompted by the severe treatment they experienced, a considerable number of them rose tumultuously, and without the previous formation of any plan of acting; the consequence of which was, that they were quickly suppressed, and compelled to consult their safety by making the best of their way to the British quarters.

The attention of Congress was now seriously turned to the recovery of South Carolina; the importance of which was now the more felt from its unexpected loss. Large detachments of regulars were collected from every quarter whence they could be spared, and dispatched with all speed to reinforce the troops remaining in the vicinity of that Province: Virginia and North Carolina, which were most interested, as being nearest the scene of danger, exerted themselves with great vigour. Virginia in particular, in order to act with the greater celerity and effect, invested the Governor appointed by their new constitution, with absolute power during the recess of their Provincial Assembly. This was the first act of the kind that had taken place in any of the United States; it was probably suggested by
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the recollection of the dictatorial power occasionally conferred upon persons of great trust and abilities in ancient Rome, in times of difficulty and distress.

Lord Cornwallis prepared to meet these hostile exertions with his usual activity. He was effectually seconded in his views by Lord Rawdon, a young nobleman whose valour and military talents began at this time to display themselves with uncommon lustre. The town of Camden was fixed upon as the centre of operations, from its convenient situation on the Santee, a large river, navigable through a great extent of country, and at hand to convey stores and troops to various parts of the Province, and especially to those bordering on North Carolina, from whence the efforts of the enemy were chiefly expected.

Experience daily shewed what small reliance could be placed on those who had submitted to, and promised to support the British government.—General Gates and Baron Kalbe, a German officer of high merit, were now advancing in great force to oppose the progress of Lord Cornwallis. As soon as they had reached the confines of South Carolina, the people of this Province repaired to them from every district, regardless of their assurances of fidelity, and of their being prisoners on parole. Bodies raised for the British service, took the first opportunity to leave it; two whole battalions went over to the enemy in this manner.

General Gates was now at the head of so considerable a force, that the post at Camden was become very much exposed. His main body pressed it on the one side, and a strong detachment, under General Sumpter, was endeavouring to cut off its communication with Charlestown. The whole country beyond Camden had declared in his favour. The troops there were in a very reduced condition,
through

through the heat and the unhealthiness of the climate ; no less than eight hundred were from illness rendered unfit for service : this was an alarming diminution to so small an army in the midst of an enemy's country.

Such were the circumstances of the British forces when Lord Cornwallis arrived at Camden. From the great superiority of the Americans, it was imagined by them that he would have retreated to Charlestown, while it still lay open to him, and would not have dared to venture an engagement with General Gates, who had near six thousand men in excellent condition, exclusive of the body under General Sumpter, amounting to fifteen hundred, and which was every hour expected to join him.

To oppose this force, Lord Cornwallis had no more than fourteen hundred regulars, with four or five hundred militia and refugees from North Carolina ; but he relied on the goodness of his troops. He also foresaw that much was to be gained by a victory, and little to be lost by a defeat. By the first he would preserve, together with the reputation of the British arms, the Provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, besides the post of Camden, with the vast quantity of stores there deposited, and the great proportion of sick troops, which, if he retired, would fall into the hands of the enemy.— Were he, on the other hand, to be defeated, he made no doubt of being able to secure his retreat to Charlestown, at all events.

Having taken the determination to fight the Americans, his next care was to procure information of their situation and motions. Finding that they were encamped at twelve miles distance, and that their best troops occupied a disadvantageous ground, he resolved to march in the night, in order to surprise and attack them by the break of day.

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He set out from Camden at ten, and at two in the morning, after proceeding nine miles, his advanced guard fell in with the enemy. By the weight of the fire he was convinced they were in considerable force; and soon found, by the report of some prisoners, that General Gates had marched his whole army to attack the post at Camden.

Lord Cornwallis immediately halted, and formed his troops; the enemy did the same; and the firing ceased on both sides. Happily for the British army, the ground where both armies were met was narrowed by swamps on the right and left, which was an advantageous circumstance to the small numbers of which the British army consisted. Lord Cornwallis having taken measures that the enemy should not have it in their power to avoid an engagement on that ground, resolved to defer the attack till day, not chusing to risk an engagement in the uncertainty and confusion to which an action in the dark is peculiarly liable.

As soon as the dawn appeared, the British forces, August 16, 1780, drew up in order of battle; the centre under Lord Cornwallis, the right wing under Colonel Webster, and the left under Lord Rawdon; a select body of reserve was stationed in the rear, together with the cavalry, under Colonel Tarleton.

The American army formed at the same time in two lines; when Lord Cornwallis observing a motion on their left, which indicated an intention to make some alteration in their order, he seized that opportunity to begin the attack, which was begun with great vigour by Colonel Webster on the right; and in a few minutes the action became general along the whole front of the line.

The weather being calm and hazy, prevented the smoke from rising, and occasioned so thick a darkness, that the effects of the vigorous fire maintain-

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ed on both sides could not be perceived. The British line continued to advance in good order, keeping up a constant fire, or making use of the bayonet, as opportunity offered. After an obstinate resistance during three quarters of an hour, the enemy was thrown into total confusion, and forced to give way in all quarters. The cavalry completed the rout, and, after doing great execution on the field of battle, pursued the flying enemy more than twenty miles.

The loss of the enemy was very considerable.— The slain amounted to near nine hundred, and the prisoners to one thousand. Among the former were General Gregory and Baron Kalbe, the second General officer in command: among the latter was General Rutherford. A great number of colours were taken, with all the artillery and ammunition, and all the baggage and camp equipage. Of the victors not more than seventy were slain, and two hundred and fifty wounded.

So complete a victory over an army so superior in number, did the highest honour to the British troops. Nor were the Americans, though defeated, wanting in proofs of firmness and intrepidity: their regulars behaved with great resolution, and were only broken at the point of the bayonet.

The conduct of Lord Cornwallis was remarkably cool and intrepid on this day. From the beginning to the end of the action, not a single opportunity was lost that tended to success. Every advantage that offered was instantly discovered, and immediately improved to the utmost. He was no less ably seconded by his officers; among whom Lord Rawdon, with Colonels Webster and Tarleton signalized themselves most conspicuously.

This victory was a very unexpected event to the Americans, who had considered themselves as certain of success. General Gates had, some days before

fore the battle, issued a proclamation ; by the terms of which it was plain that he entertained no doubt of expelling the British forces from the posts they occupied in South Carolina.

Nor were the troops under his command less confident of success. In this hope they submitted to extreme hardships in their march through the Carolinas towards Camden. They were sometimes without bread, flour, meal, or meat for several days, and compelled to feed on apples, green peaches, and corn unripe : but they bore their wants with great patience, in expectation of finding ample relief at Camden, from whence they doubted not the British troops would retreat to Charlestown on their approach.

Two days after the action at Camden, Lord Cornwallis detached Colonel Tarleton in quest of the American General, Sumpter ; who with a considerable body had for some time been successfully employed in harassing the convoys of provisions coming from Charlestown. As he was advantageously posted near the fords of the river Catawba, it was apprehended that the routed army might from that consideration, repair to his encampment, and reassemble there in force sufficient to make a fresh stand, till they received further succours.

Colonel Tarleton executed this commission with his usual activity and address. Having procured information of General Sumpter's situation, he came up with him by forced and concealed marches, and ordered his motions with such dexterity, that he surprized his camp in the middle of the day.—The American General's detachment was totally destroyed or dispersed ; three hundred were made prisoners, besides the slain ; and near three hundred of the British troops, whom they had captured, were retaken.

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This last defeat of the enemy gave the finishing blow to the hopes they had formed of regaining possession of South Carolina, and inspired the friends of the British government with a determination to exert themselves in obviating all attempts on the part of the disaffected. To this purpose they seized, in conformity with the directions of Lord Cornwallis, on the arms of those who lay under suspicion of enmity, and kept a watchful eye on all their motions.

The loyal party in North Carolina were also directed on this occasion to take up arms and assemble immediately, in order to apprehend the most violent among their opponents, and to take possession of all their military stores and magazines, and at the same time to intercept all stragglers from the routed army. To encourage them in the execution of these orders, Lord Cornwallis proposed, without loss of time, to advance with his whole army to their support.

This was the more necessary, as notwithstanding their late defeat, the American officers were exerting the utmost industry to repair their shattered army. As the remains of it were much superior in number to the British forces at Camden, and in the environs of that place, Lord Cornwallis was obliged to use the utmost circumspection in all his movements. The sick and wounded in his army were very numerous; and the reduction of strength he had suffered, though small in comparison to the greatness of the victory of which it had been the price, disabled him for a time from improving it in a manner adequate to its importance, and corresponding with the plan he had formed, and would have executed, had circumstances been favourable to his activity.

C H A P. LIV.

Naval Operations in the West Indies. — Proceedings in North America.

1780.

WHILE the British arms were thus prospering on the continent of North America, the honour of the British flag was no less strenuously maintained in the West Indian seas. Notwithstanding the superiority of force of which the French were possessed, they were unable to render it of the efficacy they had expected. Monsieur De Guichen was now at Martinico with twenty-five sail of the line. He came at the head of this formidable fleet in sight of St. Lucia. He was accompanied with eight large frigates, and a number of transports full of troops, intending to land and attack the island; but the dispositions made on shore by General Vaughan, and the judicious arrangement of the squadron under Admiral Hyde Parker, with the recollection of what had happened on the same spot to Count D'Estaing a twelvemonth before, prevented the French Admiral from making any attempt; and he returned to Martinico, after having made an ineffectual parade for several days.

The same vigour was displayed on the Jamaica station. Several Spanish ships of force and value were taken; among others, one of fifty guns, laden with a vast quantity of military stores for the settlements on the Spanish main.

The junction of Spain to France in the quarrel against Britain, enabled them to acquire a naval superiority in this latitude, from which they promised themselves great advantages. Monsieur de la

Motte Piquet was at this time cruizing in those parts with a strong squadron, for the protection of the French trade. While employed in convoying a large fleet of merchantmen, he fell in with three British ships of war, of sixty-four, fifty, and forty-four guns. His own force consisted of four ships of seventy-four guns, and two frigates. Notwithstanding this great disparity, the British Commander, Captain Cornwallis, received the enemy with the most determined resolution, and maintained a vigorous fight from five in the afternoon, during the whole night, and part of the next day; the remainder of which was employed in repairing damages on each side. In the morning of the ensuing day, a British man of war of sixty-four guns fortunately came in sight, with two frigates. Encouraged by this accession of strength, Captain Cornwallis resolutely bore down upon the enemy, notwithstanding the great superiority they still possessed. But the French ships had suffered so much in the foregoing engagement, that they did not think proper to renew it. This action, in which the French Admiral was wounded, gained much reputation to Captain Cornwallis; and impressed the enemy with the highest opinion of the skill and intrepidity of the British officers and seamen. It was particularly noticed in this engagement, that the French studiously avoided a close fight, and kept as much at a distance as they could consistently with the intent of doing execution. This remarkable action happened on the twenty-fifth of March, eighty. It was spoken of throughout all Europe with the highest admiration, and strongly confirmed the opinions of those who had ventured, notwithstanding the formidable combination against Great Britain, to foretel that she would face it with honour, and come out of all her difficulties in defiance of their number and magnitude.

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In the latter end of March, Admiral Rodney arrived at St. Lucia, and assumed the command of the British fleet. He directly determined to go in quest of Monsieur De Guichen, and offer him battle. He sailed accordingly from St. Lucia on the second of April, and proceeded to Port Royal Bay at Martinico, where he lay two days so close in with the French fleet, as to count their guns, and near enough to exchange shot with some of their batteries ashore.

The French, notwithstanding their superiority, keeping in port, the British fleet returned to Saint Lucia, with the honour of having challenged them to fight. Some swift sailing frigates were left to watch their motions, and give notice, in case they should sail out of their harbour.

On the fifteenth, the French fleet put to sea, in the middle of the night. On receiving this notice, Admiral Rodney followed them with all expedition, and came in sight of them before night. Their fleet consisted of twenty-four sail of the line, and four frigates; the British fleet of twenty sail of the line, and two frigates.

The enemy's motions tended evidently to avoid an engagement; but the precautions taken to defeat their intent were so effectual, that seeing themselves compelled to engage, they formed their line of battle about break of day.

Between eight and nine in the morning, Admiral Rodney made a signal to bear down upon the enemy; which perceiving, they altered their position to one more advantageous than their former, and continued in this manner varying their motions, in order to elude the dispositions of the British fleet.

At twelve the signal was made for battle, and for a close engagement; and about one, the headmost ships commenced the action; at which time the Sandwich in the centre began to engage. By four in

the afternoon she had driven three ships successively out of the line; after which she was attacked by the French Admiral, of equal force to herself, assisted by two other ships of seventy-four guns. Though alone, she encountered them all three with so much spirit and skill, that after an engagement of an hour and a half, they were obliged to bear away. This broke the centre of the enemy's line; and they appeared by their motions to be completely defeated: but the great distances of the van and rear divisions of the British fleet from the centre, and the damages sustained by some of the ships during the action, prevented a pursuit: the Sandwich in particular was in so dangerous a condition, that it was with difficulty she was for the ensuing twenty-four hours kept above water.

Two days after, the British fleet having repaired its damages, went in pursuit of the enemy, and chased them three days, without being able to overtake them. They constantly avoided coming to action; their intention being to recover their station at Martinico. But finding they could not compass it without hazarding an engagement, they took shelter under Guadaloupe.

As it was plain, however, from their motions, that their intentions were to return to Martinico, where only they could be refitted, Admiral Rodney made the best of his way to the road of Fort Royal, as the most probable chance of meeting and bringing them to action.

The number of slain and wounded on board the British fleet, amounted to about four hundred and seventy; among the former was Captain St. John, of the Intrepid. The French fleet was near a thousand, according to their own account.

It was with no small surprize, the people at Martinico beheld the British fleet cruizing off that island, after having being told that it was entirely defeated. After remaining there some time, the enemy

enemy not appearing, it was found necessary to repair to St. Lucia, in order to put the sick and wounded ashore, and to refit and water the fleet.

This being effected, Admiral Rodney put to sea on the sixth of May, in consequence of being apprised the French fleet was returning to Martinico. He came in sight of it on the tenth; but notwithstanding the enemy still had the superiority of number, they could not be induced to risk a general action, though it was daily in their power.

As they were sensible of their advantage in failing, they ventured to approach the British fleet, in order to observe its movements and condition, relying on their ability to elude a pursuit. Admiral Rodney, who was watchful of every opportunity of drawing them to action, decoyed them by an appearance of retreating, into such a position, as enabled a part of his fleet to come up with them.

None but the van of the British fleet could have any share in the engagement, from the expedition with which the enemy continued to withdraw, and the impossibility of bringing the remainder of the fleet into action. Captain Bowyer of the *Albion*, and Admiral Rowley in the *Conqueror*, both of seventy-four guns, bore the brunt of the day; and though they suffered from the vast superiority they had to encounter, the damage they did to the enemy was such, that before parting they had almost silenced the fire of the rear of the French fleet. This engagement happened on the fifteenth of May.

The enemy kept their distance, as usual, until the nineteenth; when the British fleet having fetched their rear, they were again brought to action, in order to extricate it. Commodore Hotham, who commanded the van, attacked them with great spirit, and compelled them during some time to a close fight, in which they suffered severely. They were pursued in their retreat to a great distance; when

the swiftness of their sailing having carried them out of sight, Admiral Rodney stood towards Barbadoes, to repair and victual the fleet, in order to enable it to go in quest of the Spanish fleet that had sailed from Cadiz to the assistance of the French, before these could again be in a condition to put to sea.

The courage and dexterity displayed by the officers and seamen of the British fleet, in these two last rencounters especially, was highly remarkable. Captain Bowyer again signalized himself in the latter of these, no less than he had done in the former; as did also Admiral Rowley, on board of whom his Captain, Watson, an officer of great merit and bravery, was mortally wounded.

These several actions terminating so honourably to the British fleet, struck both the French and Spanish islands with great terror. It was in vain the French published, that the advantages were on their side. The appearance of the British fleet, after the first action, in sight of Martinico, and the retreat of the French fleet to that island, after the two last, were a positive refutation of their accounts. It was well known, that had the French been successful, the superior quickness of their sailing must have enabled them to obtain the completest victory, and to have taken or destroyed every ship belonging to the British fleet.

While these transactions were taking place in the West Indian Seas, the people on the continent of North America were beginning to lose patience at the duration of the war, and the continuation of the difficulty under which they laboured. It had been the sanguine expectation of the Colonies, that the alliance they had formed with the House of Bourbon, would have proved a decisive measure in their favour, and compelled Great Britain to have given up the contest. But when they saw that in-

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stead of being disheartened, the British nation had gathered fresh courage from the very accession of this inveterate enemy to the quarrel with their American dependencies, and that instead of losing ground, they had, on the contrary, faced both France and Spain with success, numbers of the Americans grew discontented, and expressed themselves in terms highly offensive to the ruling powers among them. They discovered in their allies a deficiency of means to accomplish the ends they had in view, of which they had no idea; and they no less perceived in the spirit and resources of Britain the prolongation of a war, of which they had fondly hoped to see a speedy termination to their advantage.

So unexpected an issue to their expectations, began to stagger the resolution of multitudes. Free discourses were held on the circumstances of the Colonies; and it was surmised that a reconciliation with the parent state on constitutional terms, was no undefrable object; and preferable to a struggle, that had hitherto produced nothing but hardship and misery.

Ideas and conversations of this kind were frequent, even in Philadelphia itself. They could not fail to prove greatly repugnant to the views of the principal persons who presided over the affairs of America. Whatever might be the sense and wishes of the majority, the ambition of the ruling party was so deeply interested in suppressing the growth of such notions, that every precaution was used to discourage them, and to silence those who ventured to express themselves in a manner so contradictory to the maxims established among them by public authority.

Though Congress was duly sensible of the danger that might accrue from conniving at such freedoms, it does not appear to have interposed avowedly

edly in counteracting them. Possibly the members of that body did not think it prudent to acknowledge the reality of any dissatisfaction among their constituents. But in their default, and not improbably through their instigation, the matter was zealously taken up by the military officers in their service, at that time in Philadelphia.

At a meeting held in that city in the month of April, of the year eighty, they came to a determination, "That it was their duty to take a fixed and unalterable resolution to curb the spirit of insolence and audacity manifested by the deluded and disaffected." Such were their own words.

"To effect this salutary purpose," said they, "we do declare to our country, that we will not associate, or hold communication with any persons who have exhibited by their conduct an inimical disposition, or even lukewarmness to the independence of America; nor with any person who may give encouragement or countenance to them, however reputable his character, or dignified his office.

"We do also declare, that we will hold any gentleman bearing a military commission, who may attempt to contravene the objects of this declaration, as a proper object of contempt, and that we will with alacrity seize every opportunity of evincing to the world our abhorrence of a conduct so derogatory to the dignity of the army."

This declaration did not, however, put a stop to the liberty of speech that had been lately assumed by such numbers. The interference of the military seemed, on the contrary, to have given disgust to many; who did not abstain from complaints, that they had deviated from their proper line by this interposition, and exercised an authority which belonged only to the civil power. The consequences of the army's assuming the powers of government

L A T E W A R.

vernment in the unhappy days of Charles the First, were commemorated on this occasion; and the necessity of obviating such an evil in its first appearance, was no less strenuously insisted on.

But if this act of the military met with disapprobation from some, it was no less warmly countenanced by others; and excited a fresh exertion of enmity to Britain in several of those who had most influence in public matters.

In the declaration published by the officers, they had complained of an improper lenity in government; and that from the principles of universal liberty on which it was founded, people derived a disposition to act and speak licentiously.

The council of state in the Province of Pennsylvania, took advantage of this complaint, to make use of the executive power with which it was invested, in carrying into execution a measure of great severity. It published an ordinance, enjoining the wives and families of individuals in the opposite party to leave the Province in the space of ten days; and threatened that whoever of them remained after that time, should be entitled to no protection, but be proceeded against as enemies of the state.

The motives assigned for this severe edict, were, that their residence was injurious to the public interest, from the correspondence and intercourse which it constantly occasioned with the enemy, and the consequent danger resulting from them.

From the capture of Charlestown by Sir Henry Clinton, the successes of Lord Cornwallis, and the vigour with which Britain opposed France and Spain, the affairs of the Americans were at this time in a very critical situation. It was become so visible, and was so thoroughly felt, that it was thought indispensably requisite by the ruling party at Philadelphia, to keep a stricter eye than ever on all
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all those whom they suspected to waver in their attachment to the republican system. For this reason they required all individuals to produce certificates that they had sworn fidelity to the state.

In the mean time, as the publications among the Colonists teemed with reproaches of the most arbitrary and merciless intentions on the part of Britain, should her arms reduce them to obedience, it was judged highly proper to contradict them in a public and solemn manner. To this purpose a proclamation was issued by General Robertson, newly appointed Governor of the Province of New York; wherein he strove by a variety of arguments and motives, drawn up with equal strength and elegance of language, to convince the Colonists that the disadvantageous representations of the designs of Great Britain were suggested by the malice and interested views of ambitious and artful individuals, and that it was her sincere desire to compass a re-union of America by a liberal compliance with all the demands she could form for the security of her liberties.

But whatever pains were taken to induce the Americans to conceive more friendly ideas of the policy of Great Britain, those who took up the pen on the side of Congress, were no less industrious in describing the situation of Britain to be such, as to justify the persuasion of those who looked upon her as driven by her distresses to make the concessions she was holding forth to the Americans.

She was represented as standing alone, abandoned and unpitied to the world, left to suffer the punishment due to her avarice and her ambition, and pronounced entirely deserving of the calamities under which she laboured. Her memorials and remonstrances, which were formerly wont to command such respect and attention, were now treated with neglect and contempt, and exposed her to derision,

rision, from the inefficacy with which they were attended. The politics of Europe had united every Court against her; they were either openly allied, or secretly confederated in the design of humbling her pride.

The interest of Europe was a tie that bound it indissolubly to America. From the north to the south of the European continent, every state conspired to deprive Great Britain of the monopoly she had so long enjoyed in her Colonies; it was in vain she expostulated or menaced: nations were deaf to her expostulations, and despised her threats.

The strength exhibited by Britain in the struggle she still maintained, could not, in the nature of things, cope with that of her numerous enemies. Perseverance in the contest on their part, would finally compel her to submit to their terms, in spite of her haughtiness and obstinacy. It was not the success of a day, nor the transitory triumphs obtained by lucky accidents, that would enable her to overcome the potent combination of so many states. Allowing her courage, and her skill to be ever so great, it was not reasonable to suppose that they were matchless and invincible. If nothing else availed, the very duration of the war would ruin her, through the weight of those taxes with which her exigencies would compel her to load her people, in order to maintain the unequal conflict against so many enemies; and she must unavoidably sink at last under such a multiplicity of pressures.

From this depiction of the state of Great Britain, it was inferred that it would be pusillanimity in the Americans to listen to those terms of accommodation with which she was perpetually amusing them. They were incompatible with their true interests, which consisted in maintaining a perfect neutrality respecting all nations, and in governing themselves at home according to their own systems,
without

without suffering any shackles from the interference of a foreign authority.

Such was the substance of those many allegations, urged with so much vehemence, and often with so much fury and indecency of language, against all offers of reconciliation on the part of Britain.

The various performances of this kind with which America abounded at this period, served not a little to keep alive the spirit of resistance and enmity to Great Britain. It was in great measure owing to these, that the failure of their allies in compassing the great objects they had proposed, as well as their own disappointments, were viewed in the light of temporary evils, which patience and constancy in pursuing the measures they had adopted, would infallibly put a period to: as notwithstanding the resolution of the enemy, from whom they proceeded, the repetition of his efforts would of themselves waste his strength, and oblige him at last to abandon the contest, for want of means to prosecute it.

It could not, however, escape their observation, that in spite of difficulties and distresses, the same spirit animated the British nation as in the days of its greatest splendour. The unconquerable courage of her soldiers and seamen shone forth upon every occasion. Throughout the campaigns on the continent of America, no instances of the least defect of their ancient valour had happened among the British troops; whether they had been successful, or had failed in their endeavours, both officers and men had preserved their military character unshaken.

The same conduct had marked their naval officers and people. The French had, since their entering into the contest, vainly endeavoured to represent themselves as having had the superiority in some engagements, wherein the English had claimed success,

success. The description given of them by the latter, were so plain and intelligible, and carried so evident a face of truth, as to obtain credit with facility among the impartial and the intelligent; while the embarrassed and confused accounts given to the public by the French, were of themselves insufficient to invalidate their pretensions.

Various engagements had taken place at sea, between the English and the Americans. Several had been very remarkable for the courage and obstinacy exerted on both sides; but that which attracted most notice, was between Captain Pearson of the *Serapis*, a large frigate accompanied with a smaller, and an American squadron, consisting of two ships of forty guns, one of thirty, and another of twelve, commanded by the celebrated Captain Paul Jones. After exchanging several broadsides, Captain Pearson's ship and that of Captain Jones, from the anchor of one hooking the quarter of the other, lay so close to each other, fore and aft, that the muzzles of their guns touched each others sides.

In this singular position they engaged full the space of two hours. During this time, the quality and variety of combustible matter thrown from the American ship into the *Serapis*, set her on fire no less than ten or twelve different times; and it was not extinguished without the greatest difficulty and exertion.

During this conflict of the two ships, another of equal force to the *Serapis*, kept constantly sailing round her, and raking her fore and aft in the most dreadful manner. Almost every man on the main and quarter deck was either killed or wounded. Unhappily for the *Serapis*, a hand grenade, thrown from the enemy into one of her lower deck ports, set a cartridge on fire: the flames catching from one cartridge to another, all the way aft, blew up the people

people that were quartered abaft the main-mast; from which unfortunate circumstance all those guns were rendered useless for the remainder of the action.

After an hour and a half's fight, the people on board the American ship called out for quarter, and said they had struck: Captain Pearson hereupon called upon Captain Jones, to know whether he had struck, or asked for quarter. No answer being returned, after repeating the question two or three times, Captain Pearson ordered his men to board the enemy: but on preparing to execute his orders, they perceived a superior number lying under cover, with pikes in their hands ready to receive them: hereupon they desisted and returned to their guns; continuing the fight half an hour longer; when the other ship coming across the stern of the *Serapis*, poured a whole broadside into her: her main mast went by the board, while from her position, she was not able to bring a single gun to bear upon that ship. Finding it impracticable to stand out any longer with the least prospect of success, the *Serapis* struck. Had it not been for the accident of the cartridges taking fire, and the consequences that ensued, there was no doubt the latter must have proved victorious, notwithstanding the great superiority of the enemy. The American ship was in the greatest distress: her lower deck quarters were drove in, and all her lower deck guns dismounted: she was on fire in two places, and had seven feet water in her hold. Her people were obliged to quit her; and she sunk the next day. Out of three hundred and seventy-five men, which was her complement, three hundred were killed and wounded.

The other frigate that accompanied the *Serapis* shared the same fate; being taken by one of greatly superior force, after a desperate resistance. Her
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Captain's name was Piercy, and her own the Countess of Scarborough.

This action, though it terminated unsuccessfully to the two British ships, was of little advantage to the enemy. An excellent ship was lost, with a number of good hands; and the purpose of their cruise was totally defeated. The honour of the day was allowed to be on the side of Captain Pearson; whose conduct and valour were universally admired, and would in all likelihood have been crowned with success, but for the accident above-mentioned. It ought however to be acknowledged, that Captain Paul Jones displayed great personal bravery throughout the whole engagement, and fully maintained the reputation he had already acquired.

It was much about the same time that an engagement took place between a French man of war of forty guns, and the Quebec frigate, wherein the sails of the latter taking fire from her guns, the flames communicated to the vessel itself, and occasioned her to blow up. Before this accident, the fight had been maintained with so much skill and courage by Captain Farmer, who commanded the Quebec, that no advantage had been gained by the enemy, notwithstanding his superior strength in number of guns and weight of metal. The combat began at nine in the morning, at yard arm, and lasted till two in the afternoon: both ships were dismasted, and a terrible slaughter made, when the misfortune on board the Quebec put an end to the engagement. Captain Farmer perished with his vessel; out of which only thirty men were saved. These two engagements happened in the autumn of seventy-nine; the first off the coast of Yorkshire, the second off Ushant.

The many resolute exertions of this kind, which were frequent in the British navy, convinced the enemy

enemy how difficult a task it would prove to bring Great Britain to that state of depression which they had in contemplation. Instead of reducing the number of her ships and merchantmen, their own were daily diminished by the much more numerous captures made upon them by the British cruizers.

Such was the relative situation of both parties towards the close of the year seventy-nine and the commencement of eighty. An unanswerable proof of the real superiority which Great Britain maintained at sea, was, that notwithstanding the vast appearance of strength displayed by her enemies, they were foiled in all their enterprizes, and had been obliged to abandon the principal designs they had proposed to execute.

It was from the thorough persuasion of their inability to succeed without farther assistance, that they applied with so much earnestness to all the maritime powers in Europe for their interposition against Britain; and it was from the same conviction, together with their excessive jealousy of the ascendancy of Britain at sea, that these powers so readily coincided with the views of France and Spain, and united together, under pretence of maintaining the freedom of trade and navigation.

C H A P. LV.

Siege of Gibraltar.—Losses at Sea.—Transactions in the West-Indies, and in North America.

1780.

AMONG those motives that induced Spain to join the confederacy against Great Britain, was the long and earnestly cherished desire of recovering Gibraltar. The possession of this important fortress by a foreign power, was highly mortifying to the Spanish Court and nation. It was compared to the long retention of Calais by the English in former days; and the recovery of it was deemed as essential to the honour of the Spaniards, as that of Calais had been reputed by the French in regard to their own.

The principal plan of action was formed in conformity with this idea, which was warmly adopted throughout Spain, and served, in no small degree, to reconcile the people to a war, which was in other respects so much against their real interests. As soon as the rupture with Great Britain was determined upon at Madrid, the Spanish Court gave immediate orders to General Mendoza, who commanded the forces in the vicinity of Gibraltar, to cut off all communication with that place, and to invest it in the closest manner possible.

While this General blockaded by land, Admiral Barcelo did the same by sea; but notwithstanding his superiority, the British ships of force then in the bay, exerted themselves with so much activity and spirit, as to elude his vigilance on numberless occasions. They took a variety of prizes, and fa-

voured the entrance of those many vessels that brought provisions and necessaries to the garrison.

The victory obtained by Admiral Rodney, and the large supplies he had conveyed to the besieged, were an essential encouragement to them, as they now saw, that in cases of necessity they might depend upon relief. This proved no little discouragement to the besiegers, from their losing the prospect they had formed of compelling the place to surrender through want of necessaries.

On the departure of Admiral Rodney, about the middle of February, a ship of seventy-four guns, another of sixty-four, two frigates of thirty, and two sloops, remained at Gibraltar. The garrison consisted of four colonels, nine lieutenant-colonels, seven majors, fifty-six captains, one hundred lieutenants, fifty-four ensigns, three hundred and forty serjeants, one hundred and seventy drummers, and five thousand men, rank and file: the artillery and artificers amounted to seven hundred.

The chief inconveniency under which the garrison laboured, was the frequent want of fresh provisions. It had hitherto been abundantly supplied from the coast of Barbary; but to whatever causes it might be owing, a surprizing and unaccountable alteration had taken place in some of the states along that coast. The Emperor of Morocco, in particular, had transferred his friendship from Great Britain to Spain in a manner wholly unprecedented.—He espoused the cause of the latter with a zeal and partiality the more astonishing, as Britain had given him no provocation, and as the enmity subsisting for so many ages between the Spaniards and the Moors, was in a manner constitutional, and founded upon causes that could never cease to operate.

Such being unfortunately the disposition of these neighbours, the condition of the garrison became daily more distressful, from the necessity of making
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use of their salt provisions with the strictest economy, and the very great difficulty of procuring fresh.

So great however were the industry and resolution of the British officers and seamen, that in spite of all obstructions, they frequently found means to procure the refreshments that were wanted ; in doing which they were always exposed to great danger, from the strength and watchfulness of the enemy.

In the mean time the defence of the garrison was so vigorous, that while it continued to be supplied, even in this scanty manner, the enemy began to lose all hope of reducing it. In order to deprive it of this support, they formed the project of burning all the British shipping in the bay of Gibraltar.

In the night of the sixth of June, eighty, favoured by an uncommon darkness, ten fire-ships stood over from the Spanish to the British side of the bay. The enemy's design was to set fire to the store-houses nearest the water-side, as well as to the shipping there, which was at this time considerable ; but owing to their precipitation in firing their ships too soon, and to the heavy cannonade with which they were received, the attempt was frustrated.—To complete their destruction, all the boats belonging to the British ships were manned, and sent to grapple and tow them off. This service was performed with amazing intrepidity ; every one of them being run ashore.

This was a grievous disappointment to the Spaniards. Expecting their scheme to take the fullest effect, the Spanish Admiral, Don Barcelo, lay ready with his squadron to intercept the British vessels that might attempt to escape ; and the batteries at the enemy's lines were in readiness to bombard the town, had the fire-ships succeeded in causing any conflagration on shore.

The failure of this project was followed by the defeat of many others successively. . As fast as the enemy pushed their works forwards, and constructed new batteries, they were constantly destroyed.—The mortification was the greater on these occasions, as they were usually permitted to complete their operations before the destruction of them took place. Thus the labours of many days were often lost in a few hours, and the whole to be recommenced with little more prospect of success.

One of the greatest annoyances to which the garrison and shipping were equally exposed, were the Spanish gun-boats. They were vessels from thirty to forty tons burthen; they were constructed to lie low on the water, which rendered them difficult to aim at; they carried forty or fifty men, a large sail, and fifteen oars on a side, with a six-and-twenty pounder on the prow. From the facility of managing them, they were adapted to a multiplicity of uses; and in calm weather two of them were deemed a match for a moderate frigate. The want of some vessels of the same construction, subjected the people at Gibraltar to great inconveniences.

The obstinate resistance maintained by the garrison of this fortress, was very alarming to the Court of Spain, which had promised itself a speedy reduction of it, from the difficulty of supplying it with necessaries, in the midst of the impediments that must arise from the superiority acquired by the combination of the French and Spanish navies.—But experience was daily showing that this superiority had more of appearance than reality; and that notwithstanding the parade of numbers, the fleets of Great Britain still maintained the honour of their flag; and instead of remaining on the defensive, were busily occupied in attacking their enemies in every quarter.

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Another object of no less alarm was the feeble condition of the finances of both France and Spain, the latter especially. The treasure she had received from her American dominions, previous to her taking part with the former, had been exhausted by the vast expences she had incurred in order to make a figure in the confederacy corresponding with her dignity and importance. This treasure being the irregular produce of a revenue long in arrear, and not being succeeded by equal remittances, the project to which it gave birth and support while it lasted, could not be pursued with the same vigour after it had been expended.

From the sanguine prospect that had been formed by the House of Bourbon of speedily accomplishing the designs they had in view, they had engaged in such a multiplicity of enterprizes, as demanded much larger sums to carry them into execution than they had imagined would be necessary. Relying upon a quicker termination of the contest than what they now experienced, their calculations had been framed according to this expectation, and, of consequence, fell short of what they found at present would be requisite to enable them to proceed.

In France it was foreseen, that the people at large, coinciding with the measures of the Court in favour of America, the difficulty would, of course, be less in procuring pecuniary supplies from them than in Spain, where the nation was duly sensible that the humiliation of Great Britain was by no means a desirable object to the Spanish monarchy; and that, consanguinity excepted, the Court of France had no claims of amity upon that of Spain, which had already suffered sufficiently from so unpolitical an alliance.

The deficiency of the public funds was so great in this latter kingdom, that the government was

obliged to make application to the cities, towns, corporations, and all monied people, to relieve its exigencies. It was represented to them, that the public honour of the realm was at stake in the present contest with Great Britain; and that it would be highly disgraceful to abandon a confederacy wherein its faith was solemnly engaged.

Through exhortations of this nature, and the deep-rooted attachment and veneration the Spaniards are known to profess for the persons of their kings, they concurred with great zeal in contributions for the service of the Crown. Immense sums were raised in this manner upon individuals of all orders and denominations. The Spanish clergy acted with uncommon liberality upon this occasion; and many of the principal dignitaries of the church set an example, which, in a country so much under ecclesiastical influence, was of universal efficacy.

This conformity with the views of the Court was the more remarkable, as the dispositions of the people in Spain began about this time to be more favourable towards the British nation than had been customary among them. The kind treatment which their officers and other individuals continually met with from those of Great Britain, whenever the chance of war threw them into their hands, had of late awakened a sense of esteem and benignity for these, which operated very powerfully in their behalf, and set them in the light of a generous and respectable enemy. Ideas of this kind, together with the conviction that Spain was acting against its interest in the prosecution of this war, wrought no small diminution in the warmth with which the community concurred in forwarding the views of their Sovereign.

In France itself, notwithstanding the revenue was upon a much more secure and advantageous footing, the necessities of the public were become so pressing,

pressing, that, in order to avoid those discontents and murmurs that would follow from laying additional taxes upon a people already loaded as heavily as they could with patience bear, it was found indispensable to abolish a great number of places and offices in several public departments. This was deemed a severe enforcement of œconomy, as the abolition extended to no less than four hundred; but the times called so urgently for this sacrifice of private to public interest, that the feelings arising from the hard case of such a number of individuals as were dismissed from their stations, were superseded by the consideration of the absolute necessity of the measure.

These retrenchments proved, however, unanswerably the great straits to which the French ministry were reduced. Had other methods appeared practicable with any propriety at the present season, they would undoubtedly have been adopted in a state where the grandeur of the Crown, with the consequent support of all who contribute to its lustre, has always been the invariable object of those who were at the head of affairs. It is highly improbable, therefore, they would have departed from maxims long become fundamental in its very constitution, had they not been compelled to it by the circumstances of the times.

In this situation was the House of Bourbon at the commencement of the year eighty. Notwithstanding the misfortune that had befallen Spain in the capture and destruction of the squadron under Admiral Langara, it was judged incumbent on both kingdoms to preserve that appearance of strength which they had at first displayed. For this reason a junction was formed of the French and Spanish fleets, in the same manner as it had

taken place the preceding year, though with a vast inferiority of force.

Great Britain was taking measures, on the other hand, to face the combined fleets. Admiral Geary, a very brave and experienced officer, was now at the head of the British fleet, in the room of Sir Charles Hardy, who was lately dead. He sailed with thirty ships of the line in quest of the enemy, who were cruising on the coast of Portugal. In the beginning of July he fell in with a large number of merchantmen returning from the West Indies, of which a dozen were captured; the rest escaped through the haziness of the weather.

The main body of the combined fleet was at this time spread over a vast extent of sea, in that tract usually held by the shipping bound to the East and West Indies. A fleet for each of these destinations sailed from Portsmouth at the close of July. The ships bound to the East Indies were five in number. They carried a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and artillery, for the use of the British forces, and of naval stores for the men of war on that station. Of those bound to the West Indies, eighteen were vessels in the service of Government, laden with provisions and necessaries for the troops in those parts, together with recruits. The remainder were merchantmen. They were escorted by a ship of the line and three frigates.

In the night of the eighth of August, they happened to fall in with that division of the combined fleet which was commanded by the Spanish Admiral Don Louis de Cordova. Unfortunately mistaking his top-lights for those of their own convoy, they bore after him, and did not discover their error till morning, when it was too late to rectify it. They were quickly environed by the enemy.

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The man of war and the frigates escaped, with a few others ; but the major part were taken, to the amount of above fifty, including the East India-men.

The principal detriment occasioned by this capture was the loss of seamen and troops, and of the supplies that were so much needed in those places for which they were intended. The number of prisoners amounted to about two thousand seven hundred sailors and soldiers, near one hundred officers, and about two hundred passengers of both sexes.

The loss of so large and valuable a fleet, was a heavy blow in the midst of so many difficulties and trials of every denomination. The news of it was received with the highest discontent. Loud complaints were made of the imprudence of trusting such immense property to so slight a convoy, especially when the enemy was known to be on the watch. The course it had held was also represented as improper and rash ; and those who had advised it, were found the more culpable, as the end proposed by it, which was to take in wines at Madeira, was unworthy of being put into consideration with the certainty of the peril, and the importance of the other objects that were to be answered.

The dissatisfactions at home were farther increased, by the melancholy reflection on that averseness to the service which kept some of the best officers in the navy unemployed at a time when their professional abilities were so much wanted. It was with much difficulty an officer could be found to supply the vacancy of Admiral Geary, on his resignation of the command in chief of the fleet. The great merit of Admiral Barrington, who had been his second, procured him the offer ; but he declined it ; generously, however, signifying his willingness to assist in the same rank as before. On
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his refusal, Admiral Darby was invested with the supreme command.

During these transactions in Europe, the French and Spanish commanders in America were exerting their whole power against the possessions of Great Britain in those parts. The success of the Spanish arms under General Galvez, in West Florida, induced him to renew his attempts, in order to subdue the remainder of that province.

Notwithstanding the smallness of the force remaining to defend it, the vigorous resistance he had experienced in his former expedition, rendered him very cautious how he proceeded upon a second, till he had received such a reinforcement as would ensure the reduction he proposed.

Having collected all the strength of which he was master at New Orleans, he sailed from thence towards Mobile, the principal British settlement in West Florida next to Pensacola. It was at that time in a very feeble condition. The garrison of the fort, a place in no very great state of defence, consisted of about two hundred soldiers and sailors, and fifty of the inhabitants.

The passage of the Spanish forces from New Orleans was impeded by a variety of difficulties. The navigation along shore was tedious and intricate, from the perpetual shoals and shallows in their way, at the mouths of the many rivers that discharge themselves into that part of the Gulf of Mexico. They were assailed with frequent storms, by which the vessels were shattered, and several of them driven ashore; the people on board, to the number of eight hundred, narrowly escaping with their lives.

The intelligence of this disaster was highly exaggerated to the British troops and settlers; those who had been shipwrecked were represented as having utterly perished; and in consequence of this loss,

loss, they were told the enterprize had been wholly abandoned. This had the effect of diminishing the precautions that were taking against an attack.

The Spanish General, however, persevering in his design, had the good fortune to surmount all obstacles, and to effect his landing within a few miles of Mobile, with a considerable reinforcement of shipping, troops, military stores, and provisions.

Captain Durnford, of the corps of engineers, made the best defence which his circumstances would admit; but the enemy's batteries having made a breach fully practicable for an assault, as he saw they were preparing to make one immediately, and expected at the same time no relief, he judged it necessary to surrender the fort, together with the garrison, as prisoners of war. This event took place on the fourteenth of March, eighty.

The loss of this place, though of no great consideration, was attended with the more regret, as General Campbell, on the first information of the siege, hastened with all expedition to its assistance. His van was arrived within sight of the enemy at the very time the capitulation was signed; and they were preparing to take possession of the fort: but the Governor was totally unapprized of his approach. Being an officer of known courage, it was not doubted he would have held out, at all hazards, had the least notice of this been conveyed to him.

While the Spanish arms were thus employed in West Florida, an expedition was projected and carried on from Jamaica, under the direction of General Dalling, to St. John's Fort, situated on the Musquito shore. The officer entrusted with the command of the troops on this enterprize, was Captain Polson. Arriving at the river on which the fort was situated, he found as many obstructions to encounter, from the unwholesomeness of the climate,

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as from the resistance of the enemy. From the twentieth of March, when the British troops entered that river, to the thirtieth of April, when they took possession of the fort by capitulation, they endured every hardship accruing from the nature of a country peculiarly inimical to European constitutions, with little intermission, from the most destructive labour in the prosecution of this arduous undertaking.

The fatigue they underwent was attended with particular discouragement, from the circumstances of the season. The rains, periodical in that part of the world, were set in with their usual violence. In the intervals of their cessation, the intense heat of the sun occasioned such exhalations from the woods on the banks of the river, as were unbearable, and rendered the rainy weather preferable to the fair.

From these causes the expedition was attended with a considerable loss of men, though it proved highly honourable to the British arms, from the resolution and perseverance with which the troops and seamen, in emulation of each other, overcame so many obstacles and hardships, and accomplished the design proposed.

During these operations on the southern continent, the hostilities which had been partly suspended, through the severity of the winter, in the northern parts of America, were now again resumed. While Sir Henry Clinton was on his return from Charles-Town to New York, the commanders in that city, at the head of five or six thousand men, crossed over into the Province of Jersey, in hopes of surprising some detached parts of the American army. Suspecting their design, the American militia, assembled in great numbers, and way-laid them on their march, making occasional stands wherever the nature of the ground was favourable, and keeping
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a constant fire upon the troops from every quarter. They could not, however, prevent them from advancing into the country, as far as a settlement called the Connecticut Farms. Here the Americans took post in the houses, from whence they galled the troops on their march. The consequence was, that the troops, in order to dislodge them, set the houses on fire.

What rendered the destruction of this place the more remarkable, was the unhappy fate of a clergyman's lady, who was shot dead in her house.—As it could not be ascertained from which of the two parties this accident proceeded, they both charged each other with it. But however it may have happened, it proved a circumstance highly injurious to the British troops, from the conviction among their enemies that they were the perpetrators; and greatly contributed to increase that odium in which they were held by the Americans.

In the mean time, a body of Continental regulars coming up to the support of the militia, they posted themselves at a bridge leading to the town of Springfield. Here a skirmish ensued, which lasted several hours. But the British commanders receiving intelligence that large detachments from the American army were in motion towards them, and that other troops were advancing from all sides, they thought it most advisable to retire, as the design of surprizing the enemy was thereby frustrated.

They were followed with great eagerness in their retreat, and a regiment which composed their rear-guard was attacked with great fury; but the enemy could make no impression upon it; and after a long contest, were compelled to give way with precipitation. These various skirmishes happened between the sixth and ninth of June, eighty.

As the British party was in possession of Elizabeth Town, on the Jersey shore, Sir Henry Clinton,

ton, who was now returned, projected another attack upon Springfield. To this purpose, a feint was made by the shipping, of a design against the American posts on the North River, in order to draw the attention of General Washington to that side, and thereby make an effectual diversion in favour of the intended attack.

As soon as it was found that the feint had succeeded, and occasioned that General to move with all speed to the protection of his posts in the highlands, the British forces advanced immediately towards Springfield, intending to penetrate to those parts of Jersey where the stores and magazines of the Americans were lodged, in order to destroy them, and to occupy, if it were practicable, some of the strong holds where the enemy had so often retreated for security.

On the twenty-third of June, at five in the morning, the British party, in number about five thousand, besides a body of cavalry, and a train of artillery, marched from Elizabeth-Town to Springfield. The force left by General Washington for the defence of that place, and of the passes in the mountains, at the foot of which it was situated, was commanded by General Greene, a very resolute and sagacious officer. The bridge leading to the town was guarded by a chosen body of marksmen; who maintained their post with great vigour and obstinacy. After a warm dispute, the bridge was carried, and the enemy compelled to retire to their main-body; but it was so strongly posted in the defiles and high grounds overlooking the post that had been forced, that it was judged inexpedient to attack them in such a situation. During the contest of this day, the town of Springfield was unhappily destroyed.

The impracticability of forcing the enemy in the strong fastnesses of which he was now possessed, induced the British forces to retire to their post
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at Elizabeth-Town. They were closely followed; but their retreat was so compact and orderly, that the efforts made to annoy them were wholly fruitless.

In the mean time, as the attempts of the British army at New York had made no impression of any consequence, and each party continued on a footing of equality in the middle provinces, the Americans began to recover from the alarm which the loss of Charlestown had created. The intelligent among them were very industrious in pointing out the advantages resulting from that separation of the British forces which was necessarily occasioned by the expeditions now carried on in the southern provinces; a much greater facility was thereby acquired of frustrating the enterprizes of the army at New York, and the diminution of its numbers would open the way to a successful attack upon that city, as soon as the succours should arrive which had been solemnly promised, and were daily expected from France.

Warm exhortations were made on this occasion to the public by the Congress, and principal persons at the head of American affairs. They repeated the various arguments so often urged in favour of the independence they had so valiantly maintained; and called upon them, by every motive that could animate them, to act with spirit and promptitude against the designs of Great Britain.

In order to stimulate more effectually the exertions of all classes, and to procure them effectual encouragement, the leading men had recourse to two expedients, which proved of great utility.—The first was the opening of a subscription for the relief of the private soldiers in the American army, and for an augmentation of their pay. This fund soon became the more considerable, as it was patronized in a distinguished and very liberal manner by General Washington's Lady, whose example

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was quickly followed by ample donations from all the women of rank in the United States.

The second was the institution of a bank at Philadelphia; the chief intent of which was to supply the army with all necessaries. To obtain cash the more readily, the managers of this bank were empowered to issue notes, and to borrow money at the rate of six per cent. to the lenders. The subscribers to the bank were ninety-seven in number; and their subscription amounted to the sum of three hundred and fifteen thousand pounds, Pennsylvania currency.

While the attention of Congress was taken up with these arrangements, the long expected succours arrived at length from France at Rhode Island, on the eleventh of July, eighty. They consisted of one ship of the line of eighty-four guns, and twelve hundred men; two of seventy-four, and seven hundred men; and four of sixty-four, and six hundred men. They were accompanied by four frigates, one of forty, and three of thirty-six guns, besides armed vessels and transports, on board of which were five regiments of the best troops on the French establishment, with a battalion of artillery.

This squadron was commanded by the Chevalier de Ternay, well known by his expedition to Newfoundland, at the close of the preceding war. The land-forces were under the Count de Rochambeau, a Lieutenant General.

These succours, which were a convincing proof that France meant to assist them in the most effectual manner, revived the hopes of the Americans in the highest degree. They now considered themselves as completely relieved from all future apprehensions on the part of Great Britain, and began to look forward to a speedy and total deliverance from the calamities they had endured, by an entire expulsion of the British armies from the continent of America.

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The people of Rhode Island gave the French the kindest reception they were able. They congratulated their commander in the warmest terms of attachment and respect for their monarch and the nation that had sent him to their assistance. The answer they received was no less acceptable. They were told, that what they had seen was only the vanguard of a far greater force destined for their aid. As a particular motive of satisfaction, they were informed the French troops should act under the orders of General Washington, and observe the strictest discipline.

The arrival of the French succours occasioned a remarkable circumstance in General Washington's camp. — Hitherto the Americans had worn blue cockades; they were now directed to wear blue and white intermixed, by way of denoting the unanimity subsisting between the French and American nations.

The French Admiral, Monsieur de Ternay, being apprized of the small naval force at New York, under Admiral Arbuthnot, consisting only of four ships of the line, prepared directly to attack it; but when he was on the point of sailing, he was informed that a reinforcement of six sail of the line was arrived at that place. This at once broke the measures he had planned; and the Americans had the mortification of seeing him blocked up by the British fleet.

To second the measures of Admiral Arbuthnot, Sir Henry Clinton embarked a body of six thousand select troops, in order to make a descent on Rhode Island. But on receiving intelligence of this motion, General Washington marched from his encampment towards New York, with a resolution to attack it in Sir Henry Clinton's absence. Preparations were made for this purpose; and the American army was reinforced from all quarters, in ex-

pectation of its taking place. But on a close inspection and consideration of the strength now stationed at Rhode Island, the enterprize was laid aside, as highly unadvisable. Upwards of twelve thousand American troops had joined the French; and every place in Rhode Island, where a descent was practicable, had been fortified in such a manner, as to render an attempt of that nature too dangerous to be undertaken with so small a force as that which had been proposed.

During these transactions, a feat of bravery was performed, which reflected the highest honour on those who were concerned in it. A body of American Refugees, to the number of about seventy, had taken post on the shore of the North River, opposite to New York. They had erected a block-house, to secure themselves from any sudden incursions of the enemy.

A corps of near two thousand Americans, headed by General Wayne, made an attack upon them, with seven pieces of cannon. Notwithstanding a cannonade of three hours, almost every shot of which penetrated through the block-house, and an attempt to carry the place by assault, they were repulsed, with the loss of many killed and wounded. On their retreat they were pursued; their stragglers were seized, and the cattle retaken, of which they had plundered the neighbourhood.

While France was sending succours to America, Spain was exerting itself in order to give a decided superiority to the House of Bourbon in the West Indies. Towards the close of April eighty, a squadron of twelve sail of the line, commanded by Don Joseph Solano, a very brave officer, sailed from Cadiz, with above eighty transports; on board of which were embarked near twelve thousand men.

This great land-force was intended for an invasion of the island of Jamaica; previous to which attempt,

tempt, the men of war had orders to join the French fleet, and assist in attacking the British naval force in the West Indies.

On the Spanish squadron's approach to those latitudes, Admiral Rodney, to whom intelligence of it had been conveyed, put to sea from Barbadoes, where he was refitting his fleet, and taking in water and provisions, in order to intercept the Spaniards before they could effect a junction with the French.

But the Spanish commander, unwilling to commit the charge he was entrusted with to any danger, as soon as he drew near to the islands, dispatched a swift sailing vessel to Martinico, to inform M. de Guichen of his arrival, and to request he would join him with all speed.

The French Admiral's fleet had been so shattered in the late engagements with Sir George Rodney, that he had no more than eighteen ships in readiness for service. He sailed with these to the assistance of Don Solano, whom he found at Dominico. The combined fleets, on their junction, amounted to thirty-six ships of the line.

With this naval strength, and the formidable land-force that accompanied it, it was much to be apprehended, that notwithstanding the valour and skill of the British officers and seamen, their inferiority of force must have given way, and the enemy have proved irresistible. Fortunately for Britain, her people were not put to the severe trial that was expected.

The multitudes with which the Spanish transports were crowded, consisting of men quite unused to the sea, as well as to the climate and manner of living to which they were now compelled, complaints and disorders broke out among them, which quickly became contagious, and of so malignant a nature, as to carry off vast numbers. They were obliged to put ashore at Dominico twelve hundred

of their sick, and as many more at Guadaloupe and Martinico. The infection spread to the French fleet and forces, among whom it caused a considerable mortality. To this diminution of their strength it was owing that they did not think it advisable to attempt the execution of the commissions with which they were charged.

After tarrying some time at the French islands, the Spanish Admiral proceeded to Hispaniola, whither he was attended by Monsieur de Guichen, and from thence to the Havannah, in order to refit his ships and refresh his men.

Thus ended, for the present, the projects concerted between the French and the Spaniards against the British islands. The disappointment was the greater, as the French had made considerable preparations to this intent, and were not wanting to complain, that notwithstanding the losses incurred through illness, the Spaniards were not so deficient in numbers as to justify their abandoning the designs upon which they were sent. Through surmises of this kind, no small discontents arose among the French; and they began to look upon the Spaniards as too dilatory an ally to co-operate effectually against so resolute and active an enemy as the English.

In the mean time, Sir George Rodney lay with his fleet at St. Lucia, from whence he kept a watchful eye on the enemy's motions; intending, should they proceed to attack any of the islands, to throw every impediment in their way which his situation would admit. Here he was joined by Commodore Walsingham, with some ships of the line from England, and troops for Jamaica. On the departure of the French and Spanish fleets from Martinico, he followed them immediately with all the ships under his command, till finding they had no intentions against Jamaica, he returned to his former station, after dispatching ten sail of the line for the protection

tion of that island, together with the troops destined for that purpose.

The first part of the plan concerted between the Courts of Versailles and Madrid being frustrated, the second still remained undecided. Notwithstanding the failure of the former, it seemed to stand a fair chance of being carried into execution. The inaction that had, through various accidents, attended the French and Spanish forces in the West Indies, was not apprehended in North America; where no causes of the same nature were likely to operate.

This latter part of the scheme consisted in a vigorous attack on the British fleet and army at New York, by the united forces of France and America. The troops under Count de Rochambeau were to form a junction with those under General Washington, whose army was now increased to twenty thousand men, from the eagerness with which it had been reinforced by recruits and volunteers from all parts. The squadron under the Chevalier de Ternay was to be joined by the fleet commanded by Count de Guichen. Thus the combined army of France and America would amount to near thirty thousand regulars, and the naval force to upwards of thirty sail of the line; a strength which that of Great Britain on the American continent would not be able to counteract, as it was too far divided and scattered to be collected in sufficient time for resistance.

Exclusive of this general plan, an expedition was intended against Canada, which was to be conducted by the Marquis de la Fayette. A body of near ten thousand men was assigned to this undertaking, and actually on their march towards that province. — An address to the French inhabitants was also framed by that nobleman upon this occasion: they were reminded in the strongest and most cogent

terms of their origin, and the natural motives that called upon them to join a people in alliance with their mother-country. They were severely threatened, if they refused to unite with them, and should oppose the progress of the American arms.

In order to encourage their own people, and impress at the same time their allies and well-wishers with a great opinion of their internal strength, a list of the American forces was published by the authority of Congress. It entered into a very minute and particular detail of every circumstance that could give it authenticity and full credit. The numbers of men in every regiment, the names of their colonels, the places where they were stationed, were all carefully specified. By this list it appeared, that the American army consisted of one hundred and forty-eight regiments of infantry, amounting to one hundred and fifteen thousand men; nine regiments of artillery, making three thousand; three regiments of hussars, near two thousand; and the same number of horse and dragoons. Besides these, which were regular troops in constant pay, the numbers of the militia in the several provinces were little less than four hundred thousand. The fact was respecting these latter, that almost every fencible man throughout the continent was included in the list.

In addition to these preparations and display of strength, they had recourse to those other methods which they had always found of essential efficacy on critical emergencies; these were exhortations and remonstrances to the public on the duty and the necessity incumbent upon them to act with spirit and fortitude, in order to surmount the difficulties of their situation.

The address that was penned upon this occasion by the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, was remarkably warm and animated, and was circulated

circulated throughout the continent with prodigious effect. It represented with great fervour the opportunity now offered, by a concurrence of auspicious circumstances, of putting a decisive period to the war, by a vigorous exertion of their united strength. It pointed out the various circumstances that made success probable; it laid before them the danger of letting so favourable an opportunity escape, and reminded them of the sufferings they had undergone in support of a cause which it was now in their power to render completely victorious.

Such, indeed, was the universal persuasion of the Americans, when, to their utter astonishment, intelligence came that Count de Guichen was sailed for France. That commander, however he might be desirous to co-operate in an enterprize from which so much glory, in case of success, would have accrued, was not in circumstances to bear any part in it. His fleet was in so disabled a condition, from his repeated engagements with Admiral Rodney, and his people so sickly, that he found it absolutely necessary to give up this project, and to return to France with all the speed he was able.

He sailed accordingly from the West Indies, with a large fleet of merchant-men under his convoy.—The consciousness of the weak state of his ships induced him to steer for Cadiz, to avoid meeting with the British fleet. On his arrival at that port, at the end of October, he was joined by Count D'Estaing with eighteen sail of the line. He brought the same number with him; but though their united force now consisted of thirty-six line of battle ships, they did not think it safe to put to sea without further reinforcements. For that reason a numerous squadron of Spanish men of war accompanied them to the latitude of Cape Finisterre.

The British fleet was at this time cruising in the Bay of Biscay, under Admiral Darby. It was so

inferior in point of numbers to that of the enemy, that being wholly unapprized of the feeble condition of their shipping, it was judged unadvisable to attack them. It kept, however, constantly in their sight, watching all their motions, and determined to make the most resolute defence if attacked. — This conduct did the highest honour to the nation throughout all Europe, as it proceeded incontestibly from the greatness of its courage and spirit, the commanders being entirely ignorant of the real circumstances of the enemy.

As soon as Admiral Rodney was informed of M. de Guichen's departure from his station at Hispaniola, conjecturing that his destination was for New York, he set sail directly for that place with eleven of his best ships, and arrived there about the middle of September.

Previous to his arrival, Admirals Arbuthnot and Graves had kept so vigilant an eye on the French squadron in Rhode Island, that it had not dared to venture out of that harbour. The French forces stationed there were now wholly occupied in strengthening the island, and preparing to defend themselves, instead of executing any offensive operations.

Other discouraging events had also taken place; seven large American privateers, and a French frigate, had been brought into New York, besides a number of other captures.

The arrival of so strong a reinforcement to the British naval power, was an object of equal surprise and concern to the Americans. It renewed the disappointment they had felt on the failure of the expectations they had formed from the Count de Guichen. They now saw a total defeat of the scheme upon which they had founded the completion of all their hopes. What alarmed them still more, they foresaw little probability that so auspicious an opportunity

portunity would ever befall them as that which they had expected. They were now experimentally convinced that it depended upon the concurrence of too many fortuitous circumstances to be relied upon.

Such a repetition of disappointments from the same quarter, could not fail to bring the alliance with the French into much disrepute. Instead of that expeditious ruin which they were continually threatening to the British affairs in North America and the West Indies, they had succeeded in neither. Their fleets, though superior in numbers, seemed to make it their business to act on the defensive; and, on the continent, they had been foiled in the only attempt they had made in favour of the Americans.

CHAP. LVI.

*Transactions in the Neighbourhood of New York.—
Operations of the Forces under Lord Cornwallis.*

1780.

THE duration of the American war was now become equally a cause of discontent to both the parties principally concerned. Five years of toil and suffering were now elapsed, without producing any well-founded hope of seeing a speedy termination of this destructive quarrel. Notwithstanding the fair expectations arising from the several untoward events that had befallen the British arms, still the contest continued, on their part, with unabated spirit, and with no small degree of success. The constancy of the Americans, on the other side, was no less remarkable, in submitting to the various hardships they had undergone. It was in every respect a reciprocal trial of courage and perseverance; and was by both parties carried on with a degree of resolution and obstinacy adequate to its importance.

The accession of France and Spain to the cause of America had, to the astonishment of the world, produced nothing decisive. The exertions of Great Britain had, on the contrary, been such as to meet their attacks, in every quarter, on a footing of equality, and to keep the fortune of war in a state of suspense that was little expected from either friend or foe.

In this uncertain situation of public affairs, the attention of all parties was suddenly taken up by one of those singular events which are not unusually
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the result of uncommon occurrences in the course of human affairs.

General Arnold, whose eminent services to the Americans, and great military talents, had procured him so much reputation, had been appointed Governor of Philadelphia, on the evacuation of that city by the British army, in the summer of seventy-eight. His conduct in that station was made a subject of severe censure; and he had the misfortune to incur the ill-will of several persons, who represented him in very injurious colours.

The commissioners, who were appointed to examine the accounts on which the complaints against him were founded, having rejected several of the charges and demands they contained, he had applied to Congress for a revision; but the committee whom they deputed for this purpose, having approved the rejections of the commissioners, the General was highly incensed, and expressed his dissatisfaction in terms that proved extremely offensive to Congress, and laid him open to much enmity and resentment.

A court-martial was held, in consequence of the complaints brought against him; the result of which was, a reprehension of his conduct, conceived in general terms, and an order that he should be reprimanded by General Washington. His enemies, however, were not satisfied with this sentence, which, they said, was dictated by a regard for his former services.

General Arnold vindicated himself, on the other hand, with the greatest warmth. Conscious of the importance of what he had done for his country, he considered himself as ill repaid; and openly declared that he had been treated with injustice and ingratitude.

His enemies, however, were no less eager in disparaging him. They succeeded so far as to diminish,

in a great measure, the vast popularity he had so justly acquired. This was the loss he felt most heavily, and complained of with much bitterness.

Such was the situation of General Arnold, when the failure of the expectations held out on the part of France, brought about an alteration of circumstances in General Washington's army, which induced him to have recourse to every expedient, in order to supply the defection of those numbers that left him upon this occasion. The most obvious one was, to call in the assistance of those upon whose abilities he could best rely in this arduous conjuncture. Among these, none held a higher rank than General Arnold. He was accordingly called forth, and employed in the command of a post of the greatest importance, that of West Point, on the North River; where a very considerable division of the American forces was placed under his orders.

It was in this position that General Arnold took the determination to abandon the service of Congress, and to deliver up the post he commanded to Sir Henry Clinton. To this purpose a negotiation was entered into with the British General, which was carried on with great circumspection and secrecy.

As the time of executing the project in agitation drew near, it was judged proper that an interview should previously take place between General Arnold and some person, in whose honour and fidelity the fullest confidence could be deposited, in order to conclude upon the final arrangements. On this dangerous and trying occasion, choice was made of Major André, Adjutant-General of the British army; an officer who stood high in the esteem of Sir Henry Clinton, and whose professional merit and various accomplishments had, at an early period of life, recommended him to universal notice and respect.

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Under an assumed name, he privately repaired to General Arnold; from whom, having received such communication and papers as related to the business on which he came, he set out upon his return; but was intercepted on the way, and all his papers seized.

Information of this was conveyed to General Arnold, time enough to enable him to provide for his own safety; but Major André was brought before a board of general officers, for an examination of his case. After a minute investigation of every circumstance relative to it, he was adjudged a spy, and sentenced to death.

The behaviour of Major André, on his examination, was intrepid and magnanimous in a degree that struck the board with the utmost astonishment and admiration. He used no arguments or endeavours to palliate the facts that were stated against him, but frankly acknowledged every circumstance as it had happened.

Every effort was made by Sir Henry Clinton, in order to save the life of so brave and valuable an officer. All the expostulations and reasonings were used that could be adapted to the occasion, and every motive urged, in order to prevail upon General Washington to remit the sentence that had been pronounced upon him. But it was deemed necessary, by the Americans, to adhere to the rigid maxims of war; and all intercessions or remonstrances in his behalf were equally vain.

He met his severe destiny with a courage and manliness of behaviour that deeply affected all who were witnesses of it. Though engaged in a transaction, which, had it succeeded, would probably have brought instant ruin upon the enemy, such was the impression which his character made upon them, that they universally lamented his fate. —

The officers who had signed his condemnation, and
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even General Washington, testified the sincerest grief at the necessity they declared themselves under, of complying with the rigorous usage established in such cases; and could not refrain from tears when the sentence was carried into execution.

In the mean time General Arnold, on his arrival at New York, was promoted to the same rank in the British which he had held in the American army, and employed in forming a body of his countrymen to act under his own command. He published an address to the inhabitants of the Colonies, wherein he described with great force the various hardships and miseries under which they laboured; exhorting them, from a multiplicity of motives, to renounce their adherence to Congress, and return to their former union with Britain. He entered into a circumstantial detail and justification of his conduct, reprobating that of Congress in the severest terms, and representing that body as wholly devoted to France, from views of private interest. He invited those Americans who were desirous of putting an end to the calamities of their country, to join the standard of Britain, promising them the same pay and treatment as the British troops.

The representation of the circumstances of America at that time, as contained in General Arnold's address, was strictly consistent with truth. The distresses which prevailed in the several provinces were such, as nothing but an invincible determination to suffer all extremities rather than submit, could have enabled the people to have borne with any patience. The total stagnation of trade, the deprivation of the usual comforts and conveniencies, and the exorbitant price of the common necessaries of life, were the loud and encreasing complaints in almost every part of the continent. But that grievance which oppressed them most, and was indeed the foundation of all others, was the prodigious depre-

depreciation of their paper currency; it was now fallen one hundred below par, and was daily sinking lower.

Under these accumulated loads and pressures of all denominations, the constancy and perseverance of the Americans was an object of no little surprise.— It was especially in their army these hardships were severely felt; their officers, in particular, were reduced to such mortifying traits, that it was with difficulty they were prevailed upon to continue their services. Numbers had determined to resign their commissions, and resume the care of their domestic concerns, as the only means of preventing the absolute ruin of their families.

The fact was, that provisions were the only article with a sufficiency of which Congress was able to supply their forces; but, food excepted, the want of every other necessary was felt in a very extensive degree. But the distress fell chiefly upon the officers, who, in order to maintain a decency of appearance suitable to their rank, were obliged to raise money at a great loss.

Frequent applications were made by them to Congress, and to those states of which they were the immediate dependents. But, notwithstanding they were continually promised redress, they saw no prospect of any alleviation to their sufferings.— They bore them, however, with exemplary patience; and were never tempted, by the length of its trial, to have recourse to any other means of remedy than solicitations founded on the justest reasons, and remonstrances conceived in the most decent terms. This was the more worthy of remark; as they had precedents before them, in the military records of other countries, which might have induced them to act in a very different manner, had they not been swayed by an uncommon attachment to the cause which they had embraced, and resolved to

to support it to the last, whatever the consequences might be.

In the meantime, fresh efforts were used to improve the good fortune which Congress had experienced, in avoiding the destruction into which they were so near falling. The tardiness of the several component parts of the American union, in furnishing their respective contingents, was the fundamental cause of the difficulties to which their armies were reduced. Great endeavours were made to bring them into a more punctual compliance with the requisitions of Congress in these matters; but the greatest derangement of their finances, throughout the continent, was an insuperable bar to all designs of this nature.

In addition to these difficulties, another intervened, which aggravated all others, and occasioned an event which threw the whole continent into the greatest alarm.

As the term of enlistment was near expiring with numbers of those who composed the principal army, the provinces were summoned, of course, to send their proportion of recruits. But, from whatever cause it might proceed, several of them were deficient in their quotas. This excited the greatest dissatisfaction, as the soldiers, whose time of serving was completed, could not obtain the discharge to which they were entitled, for want of others to replace them.

This, happening at the close of the year, was rendered the more intolerable on account of the severity of the season, and the want of cloathing. The complaints of the soldiery were the louder, as they were informed that a sufficient quantity had long since been purchased, and lay ready for them, both in France and the West Indies, and that their not receiving it was owing to mere neglect.

Inclosed

Incensed at so long a continuation of hardships, a considerable body of the army determined to leave the service, until their grievances were fully redressed. This body consisted of thirteen hundred men, belonging to the Pennsylvania line. They demanded the full arrears of their pay, clothing, and provisions. They had received none of the two first, and but part of the last. Some of their officers endeavouring to quell the insurrection, a riot ensued, in which four of these were wounded, and one killed.

The whole body then formed, and marched off with the baggage, artillery, and provisions belonging to the corps. They were again entreated to desist, and return to their duty: but no remonstrances could prevail. They continued their march till the evening, when they encamped in an advantageous position. Here they chose officers out of their own body, and elected commander in chief a serjeant-major who had formerly been a soldier in the British army, giving him the title of major-general.

After three days march, they fixed their quarters at Prince-town, in the Jerseys. Here a flag of truce followed them; but the only answer they would give to the messages that were sent, was that they had served beyond their time, and insisted on the arrears due to them, before they would serve any longer.

On receiving intelligence of this mutiny in the American army, Sir Henry Clinton lost no time in his endeavours to derive that utility from it which it seemed to promise. Three of their countrymen in the British interest, were dispatched to treat with them upon this occasion. The proposals made to them were highly advantageous: they were, on returning to the obedience of the British government, to enjoy its protection, and receive the full amount

of what was due to them from Congress; such as were willing to enter into the British service, should be entertained on the same footing as the other troops; but they were left at liberty in this matter, and the only condition required of them was to lay down their arms, and bear them no more against Great Britain.

After making these proposals, and accompanying them with various motives to induce them to compliance, Sir Henry Clinton made several movements, and stationed his troops in such a manner, as to be in readiness to support the insurgents, in case they should come into his measures.

But it was soon discovered that all his endeavours were vain. Notwithstanding their discontents, the mutineers still continued immoveable in their adherence to the cause of America. In order to show at once that their intentions were by no means hostile to it, they removed from their quarters at Prince-town to Trenton, on the Delaware, no great distance from Philadelphia.

A mutiny pregnant with so much danger, could not fail greatly to alarm the Congress, and all its friends. The executive council of Pennsylvania addressed a letter to the insurgents, promising them in the most solemn manner, a redress of every grievance they complained of, and an immediate gratification of every request that could be complied with.

A favourable answer being returned by the insurgents, a committee, consisting of several members of the Congress, was appointed to meet and confer with them at Trenton; where all matters were accordingly settled to their entire satisfaction. As a proof that they had not swerved from their fidelity, notwithstanding the tempting offers that had been laid before them by the British commander, they delivered up the agents that had been employed

employed by him to that purpose ; who were immediately ordered for execution.

The insurrection of the Pennsylvania line, was followed by that of New Jersey ; which was pacified in the same manner :—nor did that part of the American army which was under the immediate command of General Washington himself escape the contagion. Having the same pretensions, it was hourly expected that it would make the same demands. In such critical circumstances, he remained in his quarters, without indicating the least intent of moving from them on any pretext. His presence, and the respect and affection for his person, though it could not prevent murmurs and dissatisfaction, contained the soldiery within bounds, and prevented them from imitating the example of the rest.

The most striking circumstance throughout all this transaction, was the inflexible averfeness shown by the American soldiers to admit of any interference in their behalf on the part of those they deemed the enemies of their country. It reflected the highest honour on their character, and proved, that however their motives might be erroneous, still they acted upon principle.

The same instance of integrity had happened in the case of the unfortunate Major Andre : his captors were three common soldiers of the country militia, whom no promises nor allurements could induce to release him.

These proofs of attachment to their party among those who constituted the bulk of the people, were adduced, both in England and in America, as strong evidence that it was vain to rely on the dispositions of the multitude at large as friendly to the cause of Britain. Wherever the experiment had been tried, it had constantly failed. Doubtless, Britain had many friends among the Colonists ; but the number though

great in itself; was small in comparison of its enemies. This opinion, though strongly combated by the Loyalists in America, and by those who embraced the ministerial side in England, began to gain ground in both countries more powerfully than ever, and to place the continuation of the contest on the part of Britain, in a very unfavourable point of view.

During these various proceedings, the British arms in the Southern Colonies of the American continent had met with many vicissitudes of good and ill success. The unwholesomeness of the season that followed the battle of Camden, was the cause of long inaction; and proved at the same time no less inimical to the troops than hostilities themselves.

Lord Cornwallis employed this interval in settling the government, and making further arrangements in South Carolina for the suppression of attempts on the part of the disaffected. The estates of such as had joined the enemy, and opposed the British government, were sequestrated by proclamation.

As the enemy was assembling on the borders of North Carolina, he judged it expedient to send a detachment thither, in order to watch their motions and counteract them, and to encourage the Loyalists, who were numerous in that quarter, to hold themselves in readiness to join him, as soon as the season would permit him to direct his march to that province.

The officer who commanded the detachment was Colonel Ferguson; a man of uncommon abilities in those military operations that tend to distress and harass the enemy, by intercepting convoys, surprising parties, and making sudden attacks and incursions. His expertness as a marksman, was unrivalled. It was happy for General Washington that his person was unknown to the Colonel, who

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was more than once near enough to have singled him out. He used, it is said, upon these occasions, a musket of his own invention, contrived with peculiar art for sure and expeditious firing.

In pursuance of the orders he had received from Lord Cornwallis, he repaired to the frontiers of North Carolina, at the head of a body of light infantry, consisting of men trained under his own direction. He placed himself in such a manner, as to waylay a corps of Americans who were on their march to join a larger body.

In the mean time, the Provincial troops were collecting from various quarters. They formed, upon their junction, a force much superior to that of the Colonel; who, upon discovering their strength and intent, thought it adviseable to retreat. But as they were excellently mounted, they overtook him. Finding an engagement was unavoidable, he posted himself advantageously on a high ground, called the King's Mountain, where he waited the approach of the enemy.

They came up with him about four in the afternoon, upon the seventh of October. Their superiority in number enabled them to surround and attack him on all sides. After an action that lasted near two hours, he was slain, and his troops, after a very brave resistance, were totally defeated. The loss in killed and wounded amounted to upwards of three hundred; four hundred were made prisoners, and very few escaped.

This was a severe blow, both from the loss of men, and of so excellent an officer. It elated the Americans in a very uncommon manner. They had been of late under great despondency, from the repeated checks they had received in those parts; but this sudden turn of fortune seemed to promise a change in their affairs.

Encouraged by this success, they began soon after to form further projects for the total expulsion

of the British forces from these parts. General Sumpter, one of their most active officers, having assembled a considerable body of men, proceeded towards the British posts in the upper country of South Carolina, with an intent to surprize them.— On receiving intelligence of his march, Lord Cornwallis sent orders to Colonel Tarleton to hasten with an expedition to their relief.

The Colonel was at this time at such a distance from the enemy, that they did not imagine it was in his power to arrive in time to prevent them from executing their designs. But so great was his diligence, that he penetrated through a large extent of country, in which he had several deep and broad rivers to cross, and almost came up with General Sumpter before he was apprized of his motions.— The American General was preparing to pass the river Ennoree, when he was informed of Colonel Tarleton's approach. He had hardly time to convey his main body to the other side; but his rear-guard could not escape, every man being either killed or taken.

He fled with the utmost precipitation.— But Colonel Tarleton pursued them with such rapidity, that he found it necessary to halt on the banks of the Tyger, not daring to cross it with the British troops pressing on his rear. He was partly induced to make a stand by the information that Colonel Tarleton, in the eagerness of his pursuit, had left his infantry some miles behind, and that the whole force with him did not amount to three hundred men.

Not doubting to put this handful to the rout before it was joined by the main body, he drew up his own party, consisting of more than a thousand men, on a very advantageous ground; but Colonel Tarleton, notwithstanding his inferiority, attacked him, without waiting for the coming up of his people,

ple, with such astonishing vigour, that his party was broken, and compelled to cross the river in the utmost confusion.

In this engagement the Americans lost a considerable number of men : three of their Colonels were killed, and General Sumpter himself was dangerously wounded. They were closely pursued over the river ; and their whole body was either destroyed or dispersed.

The success of this day added greatly to the reputation of the British arms, and struck no small damp upon the enemy. The circumstances of the engagement were singular in every respect. A thousand men, well armed, posted on a strong ground, and covered by several log-houses, had been defeated by a body of no more than one hundred and ninety horse, and eighty foot, without the assistance of any artillery.

In order to forward the operations of Lord Cornwallis, by cutting off the communication between the middle and southern provinces, a corps of three thousand choice troops were dispatched under the command of General Leslie, to the Chesapeake, with orders to occupy those places in its neighbourhood, that were most convenient to intercept any succours that might be on their way to the Carolinas.

The troops sent upon this expedition landed accordingly in several places in Virginia, where they seized or destroyed a considerable quantity of merchandise and stores, and made prizes of a great number of vessels in the various rivers and harbours. But Lord Cornwallis, being apprized the intention of Sir Henry Clinton was that this reinforcement should act entirely according to his orders, directed General Leslie to repair forthwith to Charlestown, and to join him with all speed with one half of his force, leaving the other for the guard

of that town, and the security of the intermediate posts between it and the army under his command.

This accession of strength enabled Lord Cornwallis to make suitable preparations to penetrate into North Carolina towards the close of the year, which was the most favourable season for military operations.

The arrival of this reinforcement, and the plan proposed by Lord Cornwallis, were the more alarming to Congress, as they were not in a condition to provide a sufficient force at the present time to oppose him, from the multiplicity of difficulties they had to encounter in a nearer quarter.

The earnest desire of General Arnold to signalize his return to the cause and standard of Britain, induced Sir Henry Clinton to place him at the head of a considerable detachment, with which he was commissioned to make a descent in Virginia. He sailed accordingly from New York with a strong convoy, and landing on the coast along the Chesapeake, did immense damage to the enemy in all those parts.

The prodigious destruction of military stores, and of merchandise upon this occasion, and the defeat of several bodies of men, together with the apprehension of still worse consequences, obliged General Washington to dispatch two thousand of his best troops to the assistance of the people in Virginia, to which the Count de Rochambeau promised to add an equal number of French. The Marquis de la Fayette was appointed to the command of this force.

The French squadron was also to co-operate. — It had lately suffered great losses. Three ships of sixty-four guns, detached from Rhode Island, in order to intercept some store-ships going from New York to Charlestown, failed in their design; and on their

their return were cast away. Some of their largest frigates had shared the same fate; and the remainder was in danger of falling into the hands of Admiral Arbuthnot, when they were relieved from their fears by the arrival of a considerable reinforcement.

A violent storm happening at this time, wherein a British ship of seventy-four guns was lost, and another of the same force dismasted, the French squadron took this opportunity to sail from Rhode Island, intending to come upon the armament employed in Virginia, before the British squadron had sufficiently repaired the damages sustained in the preceding storm, to proceed to its assistance.

In full expectation of success, the French had already sent some ships of force to the Chesapeake, with a view of preventing the arrival of any transports with reinforcements to the British troops, and of obtaining an exact information of the respective situation of both parties. But hearing that several British ships were on their way to attack them, they withdrew with the utmost expedition. On their passage back to Rhode Island, they fell in with, and captured a British ship of forty-four guns.

In the mean time, as the alarm was daily increasing in Virginia, from the enterprising spirit and rapid movements of General Arnold, it was become necessary to make the quickest exertions, in order to revive the courage of the Virginians. To this intent the French General, Count de Rochambeau, embarked with two thousand of the selectest men, and proceeded with the French squadron from Rhode Island on the eighth of March, eighty-one.

On intelligence of his departure, he was immediately followed by Admiral Arbuthnot, who overtook him off the Capes of Virginia on the sixteenth. The British line of battle consisted of one ship of
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ninety guns, three of seventy-four, and three of sixty-four. The French had two ships of eighty-four guns, two of seventy-four, and three of sixty-four.

An engagement now took place; in which the French, according to their usual system, avoided as much as possible to come into close action. As they kept aloof, only part of the British Squadron could fetch them; which occasioned it to suffer much from the great superiority with which it had to contend: on the coming up of the remainder, the French were soon broken, and compelled to retreat with all speed; but the detriment sustained by those ships that had borne the whole weight of their fire was such, that it was found impracticable to pursue them.

But notwithstanding the retreat of the French Squadron rendered the victory incomplete, the advantages gained in other respects were very decisive. Admiral Arbuthnot had the satisfaction of frustrating the whole plan of operations formed by the French and Americans, respecting the ensuing campaign in Virginia. The Count de Rochambeau was compelled to return to Rhode Island, without daring to make the least attempt to land his troops; and those that were sent to General Washington's army, were blocked up by the British shipping at Annapolis, in Maryland, without being able to proceed to the intended relief of Virginia.

To the further mortification and alarm of the enemy, a strong reinforcement arrived from New York, under the command of General Philips, whose junction with General Arnold spread the greatest terror through the whole province of Virginia.

Lord Cornwallis was at the same time preparing to force his way through North Carolina, and advancing at the head of a considerable force towards
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the frontiers of that province. The resources of the Congress were in such disorder at the commencement of this year, eighty-one, that they were not able to spare any of the troops belonging to the army in the vicinity of New York for the relief of the Carolinas, and were compelled to leave them entirely to their own exertions.

In this difficult situation, General Washington was compelled to part with an officer, of whose services he then stood in the highest need, and to send him with all expedition to assist them in opposing the progress of the British arms. This was General Greene; whom, next to himself, the Colonies considered as the ablest officer in the American army.

Arriving in North Carolina, he found Lord Cornwallis on his march to the borders of that province, and on the point of entering it. He made the utmost efforts to collect a sufficient force to obstruct his motions; but not finding himself in a condition to face him, he determined to make an attack upon some of the British posts in the upper part of the country, hoping by such means to oblige Lord Cornwallis to desist from his present design, in order to come to their relief.

The post which lay most open to an attempt was that called Ninety-six, which had been fortified, and well garrisoned; but which stood at such a distance from the main body then with Lord Cornwallis, that General Green thought it, for that reason, the properest object of an immediate attack.

In order to second the efforts of General Greene, he was attended by the most expert partisan among the Continentals: this was the celebrated Colonel Morgan; a man of the greatest personal bravery, and the most distinguished skill in that manner of fighting. He was in the American, what Colonel Ferguson had been in the British army, and had signal-
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ized himself upon so many occasions, both against the Indians and the British troops, that he was become a most formidable and dangerous enemy.

While General Greene was occupied in attacking the post at Ninety-six, Colonel Morgan was employed in observing the motions of the British army. To this intent he fixed himself near the river Pacolet, with a body of rifle-men and of cavalry, and a number of militia.

Colonel Tarleton was at the same time advancing with all speed to the relief of Ninety-six. He had orders to clear that part of the country of the American parties that infested it, and especially of that under Colonel Morgan. Pursuant to these orders, he pressed him so vigorously, that he was obliged to retreat hastily before him, till he was arrested in his flight by the Broad River, so called from its immense breadth, and of which the waters were so much out by the late periodical falls of rain, that he found it utterly impassable in the presence of an enemy that was now close upon his rear.

In this extremity he resolved to post his men to the best advantage, and to put all his abilities to the test in the engagement, which he now saw could no longer be avoided. He was convinced that were he defeated, his whole party must either be taken or destroyed; and he knew that the success of the campaign depended materially on its preservation. Animated by these motives, he made every disposition in his favour which the nature of the ground would admit. He formed his party in two divisions: the first, composed of militia, occupied the front of a wood; the second was drawn up in the wood itself, and consisted of his marksmen and best troops.

Colonel Tarleton, upon coming up with the enemy, drew up in two lines; his infantry in the center of each, and his cavalry on the flanks. He
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attacked and routed the militia that fronted him, pursuing them into the wood, whither they fled with the utmost precipitation.

This defeat and pursuit being what Colonel Morgan had expected, he had provided for it accordingly. On the first line giving way, he directed the second to open on the right and left, and extend along the wood. The way being thus cleared for those who fled, their pursuers were suffered to follow them till they were sufficiently entangled in the wood for the end proposed; when on a signal given they were assailed on both sides with the most dreadful discharge of rifle-pieces from behind the trees, almost every shot of which took effect. They were instantly thrown into the utmost disorder by this unexpected attack from an enemy they had not seen. Great part of the infantry was cut to pieces; a regiment that was most forward in the pursuit, lost its colours by the fall of those who carried them; and two pieces of cannon were taken, after a most obstinate and bloody resistance from the artillery company, who were all killed or wounded to a man, fighting in their defence.

Notwithstanding the day was lost, Colonel Tarleton exerted himself with so much resolution, that he found means amidst the confusion attending the rout of his people, to rally numbers of his cavalry. At the head of those he charged the enemy's horse, put them to flight, and recovered his baggage, which had been seized by a body of infantry, most of whom were slain upon the spot. This engagement happened on the seventeenth of February, eighty-one.

The ill fortune of this day was in many respects decisive of many subsequent events, and was heavily felt during the whole remainder of the campaign. It was in a manner a repetition of the disaster that had befallen the brave and unfortunate Colonel

nel Ferguson, with this only difference, that Colonel Tarleton escaped with life, and made a retreat.

Upon receiving intelligence of this defeat, a body of light troops was dispatched by Lord Cornwallis with the utmost expedition, in order to come up with Colonel Morgan, retake the prisoners he had made, and prevent his junction with General Greene; but so quick were the enemy's motions, that they could not be overtaken.

The other forces destined to join General Greene being now on their march from Virginia, it became an object of essential consequence to prevent them; as from their accession, his strength would be augmented to such a degree as to be alarmingly superior to the army of Lord Cornwallis. To enable the British troops to march with the greater speed, a resolution was taken at the same time to destroy all the baggage that could not be secured, and that was deemed an unnecessary incumbrance on the army's motions. Nothing of consequence was reserved but what was indispensably requisite for the absolute subsistence of the troops. A few waggons only were kept for the accommodation of the sick and wounded, and the transportation of salt and ammunition. The casks containing wine and rum were all staved, and they set forwards with no other provision than as much flour as the men and some horses were able to carry.

The troops submitted to all these inconveniences with admirable temper and patience: they had before them indeed the example of their commander, who, notwithstanding an ill state of health, cheerfully partook of all their hardships; and was no better provided for than the rest of his people.

At the head of a small, but brave and resolute army, prepared and determined to encounter all difficulties, Lord Cornwallis began his march towards the fords of the river Catawba. They were so vigilantly

stantly guarded by the enemy, that he was obliged to move a great length of way towards its head before a passage could be found. Even here his motions were so closely watched, that he was compelled to make a variety of feints, in order to elude the attention of the enemy.

But they continued to observe his movements so unremittingly, that he was obliged to risk the passage of a ford five hundred yards wide, where the men waded through the water up to their middle, exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy, posted on the other side; but, in spite of all obstacles, they forced their way over, and put the enemy to flight, killing numbers of them, among whom were their commander, General Davidson; a very valiant man, and several other officers.

The crossing of this ford was followed by the total defeat of another body of the enemy assembled at some miles distance, by Colonel Tarleton, at the head of his cavalry. He surprized them so completely, that they were instantly routed, with severe execution. This renewed the terror his former exploits had occasioned, and kept the inhabitants of the neighbouring districts in such awe, that they did not dare take up arms against the British army on its march, notwithstanding they were notoriously as disaffected a people as any on the whole continent.

The first object in view after crossing the Catawba, was the pursuit of Colonel Morgan; who, on hearing of the British army's approach, retired before it with the utmost celerity, marching day and night to reach the banks of the river Yadkin; he was followed with great eagerness by the British troops, who were extremely impatient to be revenged upon him for the check received at Broad River. But notwithstanding the vigour with which they proceeded, so many impediments arose in their

their way from the difficulty of the roads, and the swell of the waters everywhere, that they could not come up with him till the evening of the second day's pursuit; by which time he had passed over the main body of his infantry, and all his cavalry, with most of his baggage. His rear-guard was routed and dispersed, and the remainder of his baggage taken. But as the ford through which he had crossed became immediately impassable, through the rains that fell that very evening, Lord Cornwallis was obliged to direct his march to the upper fords of the river.

As General Greene had not yet been joined by the reinforcements from Virginia, the British troops hastened to cut off his communications from that province, by marching with all speed to the river Dan, which forms the upper boundary between North Carolina and Virginia.

Such was the celerity of Lord Cornwallis, that he fully succeeded in his design. Finding himself between that province and General Greene's army, he proceeded in quest of him with the more expedition, as he now imagined that he would be compelled to an engagement, in order to extricate himself. He had been informed that all the fords of that river, excepting those of which he now was master, were impassable at this season, and that a sufficient quantity of boats could not possibly be procured to ferry over so large a body as that under General Greene. But contrary to his expectation, and the intelligence he had received, he soon discovered that his pursuit of the American general was fruitless. The bridges on the roads were all broken down, the boats destroyed or removed, and every obstruction contrived to retard his motions.—Arriving at Boyd's Ferry, on the fifteenth of February, he was informed that General Greene had crossed

crossed it some hours before, and was safe on the other side of the river with his whole army.

This was highly mortifying to Lord Cornwallis, who had entertained no doubt of overtaking and compelling him to fight. As all hopes were at an end of preventing the junction of the Virginian troops with General Greene; and as the British army was too feeble to follow him into Virginia, he now determined to repair to Hillsborough, and take up his quarters there, in order to give his troops some rest after the fatigues they had endured.

Notwithstanding they had failed in the design of intercepting the enemy, they had however enjoyed the satisfaction of forcing him to retire from the Carolinas; and had struck the people of those provinces with equal dread and astonishment at the invincible courage and perseverance with which they had gone through a constant series of the greatest hardships. Destitute of every refreshment and comfort, without any other support excepting what was indispensable for existence, they had spent the day in continual toil, marching through wastes and forests without roads or tracks, exposed to perpetual ambushes, and passing the night without cover, and open to all the inclemencies of weather.

While Lord Cornwallis was employed in these various expeditions, it was judged highly expedient to gain some convenient post on the sea-side of North Carolina, in order to establish a safer line of communication with him, than through that length of country by which it was now carried on with so much danger of interception. To this intent Colonel Balfour, who commanded at Charlestown in the absence of Lord Cornwallis, commissioned Major Craig to proceed to Cape Fear river, at the head of a considerable detachment, under the convoy of Captain Berkley, with some ships of force.

The troops and marines landed at some miles distance from the town of Wilmington, situated upon that river ; and the shipping entered it at the same time ; upon which the place surrendered at discretion. Some vessels, laden with goods and warlike stores, were taken ; a body of the enemy that had assembled in the neighbourhood, were defeated, with the loss of a great quantity of ammunition ; and the whole adjacent country was entirely reduced to subjection. After which, the town itself was put into a state of defence, and endeavours made to open a communication with Lord Cornwallis, according to the directions he had given.

The possession of Wilmington, and the retreat of General Greene into Virginia, had revived the hopes of the Royalists in the back parts of North Carolina. Some hundreds of them assembled, with an intent of repairing to the King's standard at Hillsborough ; on intelligence of which a strong party of the enemy marched to intercept them. Colonel Tarleton was sent, on the other hand, to protect them ; and they received notice to hold themselves in readiness to join him. Unfortunately, on the approach of the American detachment, they mistook it for that commanded by Colonel Tarleton ; the consequence was, that they were surrounded, and made prisoners by the enemy ; who were accused, on this occasion, of having killed many of them after they had asked for quarter.

This accident, though not of much importance in itself, was of much disservice to the Royal cause, by discouraging many from joining the British standard who had been seeking the occasion of doing it ; but were now deterred by the activity with which they saw that all intentions of this kind were frustrated.

In order to prevent any further attempts of this nature, and to encourage his own adherents, General

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ral Greene having been largely reinforced, repassed the river Dan, and advanced into North Carolina. As the strength he brought with him was much superior in number to that of Lord Cornwallis, it was imagined that he proposed to risk an engagement on the first opportunity that offered.

Colonel Tarleton was detached with a small but select body, to watch his motions. On the second of March, eighty-one, he fell in with considerable numbers of the enemy, whom he attacked and routed, driving them to their main body; which apprehending the approach of the whole British army, fell back to an advantageous position, in order to wait with more security the arrival of a very strong reinforcement of Continental regulars that was daily expected.

As General Greene's light infantry was very numerous, and consisted chiefly of marksmen, they proved so troublesome, that it was determined, if possible, to circumvent and destroy, or capture them. After using much vigilance, they were at length surprized in their quarters, and defeated with so much loss, that they were obliged to retire to their army, which Lord Cornwallis was preparing to attack. General Greene seeing his people discouraged by the flight of his light troops, made an immediate retreat.

The position which he took was so strong, and at the same time so convenient, either to advance or retire at pleasure, that Lord Cornwallis finding it impracticable to force the Americans to an engagement, contented himself with keeping them from making irruptions into that part of the country which was represented to him as well affected to the British cause. But, notwithstanding his care and circumspection in favour of those whom he esteemed his friends, experience daily convinced him, that if they were not few in number, they were how-

ever very averse to join him; and that though they might be willing to submit to the authority of Britain, they had no inclination to run any hazard for its re-establishment.

The long expected reinforcements having at length joined General Greene, his army now amounted to upwards of seven thousand men, two-thirds of which consisted of regulars and well trained rifle and marksmen. With this force he no longer hesitated to face the British army, which did not much exceed two thousand men.

On the fifteenth of March, at day-break, Lord Cornwallis set forward to meet the American General, who was reported to be advancing full speed to attack him. Colonel Tarleton falling in with the advanced parties of the enemy, charged them with his usual spirit, and put them instantly to the rout, pursuing them till he came within sight of their main body, which was drawn up in order of battle upon a rising ground, not far from a town called Guildford.

Between the two armies lay a plantation, with some open fields on each side; beyond it stood, at some distance, a wood, about one mile in depth; the ground behind it being an extensive plain.—The ground whereon the American army stood, was skirted towards the right of the British army with a continuance of wood.

The front of the wood behind the plantation was occupied by the first line of the American army, composed of the North Carolina militia; the second was formed in the wood, and consisted of well disciplined Virginia-men; the third, posted in the same manner, was a chosen body of Continental veterans: their right and left were covered by dragoons and rifle-men.

On reconnoitring the disposition of the enemy, as the wood appeared less thick and bushy on their left,

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Lord Cornwallis determined to make it the principal object of his attack. The smallness of his force admitted of no more than two lines. His right wing was commanded by General Leslie ; his left by Colonel Webster : a body of reserve, with the cavalry, under Colonel Tarleton, were posted in readiness to support with facility every corps that stood before it, and to seize every advantage.

The battle began about two in the afternoon ; when after many severe discharges on both sides, the superiority of the Americans enabling them to outflank the wings of the British army, the second line was obliged to unite with the first, in order to form an equal length of front with the Americans, who had till then, by extending their wings, galled it with a heavy fire on each side.

In this position, notwithstanding the disparity of numbers, the British line pressed forward with a vigour which the enemy were not able to withstand ; their front line was entirely broken, and put to flight. The British troops now entered the wood, to attack the second ; but it stood its ground with much more firmness. The troops composing it were, in fact, little, if at all inferior to regulars ; they made a most resolute defence, and were not discomfited without much difficulty ; neither did they betake themselves to flight, but fell back into the third line, consisting entirely of selected regulars.

The advantages of the ground were wholly on the side of the Americans. The wood, wherein both armies were now engaged, was so thick, that little or no order could be observed in advancing upon the enemy. The formation of a regular line being impracticable, personal courage and intrepidity were now upon a parity with military skill and discipline.

In no one action during the American war, was the native bravery of the British nation more resolutely displayed, and more effectually exerted.— The battle was now become a trial of the strength, activity, and valour of every man that fought. The enemy that had been broken in the commencement of the action, now rallied every-where, and the fight was renewed with the greatest degree of fierceness and obstinacy. Both parties engaged in separate detachments, unconnected with each other; but still the numerosness of the enemy empowered them to attack several of the British corps in their front, flank, and rear, and to inclose them in such a manner, as to oblige them, notwithstanding their inferiority, to present a face on every side.

In this manner the fight was carried on for a considerable time. The British troops however still continued to advance, and the enemy gradually to retire towards the further end of the wood. It was at length penetrated by a division of the British army; this was the second battalion of Guards. On their entrance into the plain, they found a large body of the enemy's regulars drawn up in readiness to receive them. But their attack was so impetuous, that the enemy was immediately routed, with the loss of their artillery, and driven into a wood in their rear. Here they recovered themselves, and the Guards pursuing them, received such a fire, that they were compelled to retire into the plain, where they were charged by the enemy's cavalry. The troops which they had before routed, having also rallied, took this opportunity to fall from the wood, and retake their artillery. The enemy's great superiority in numbers had thrown the Guards into disorder; but their commander, General O'Hara, though wounded, by his spirited exertions, brought them again into order and action.

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By this time other divisions of the British army had made their way through the wood, and charged the enemy as fast as they came up. They were so effectually supported by the artillery, commanded by Captain Macleod, and the cavalry under Colonel Tarleton, who successively arrived at this critical juncture, that after a bloody and hard contested conflict, the enemy was at last completely defeated in this quarter, with the total loss of artillery and ammunition.

But the action, though terminated here, still continued in other parts. A heavy fire was kept up on the right of the British army, where both sides maintained the fight with as much fury as ever. The appearance of Colonel Tarleton quickly decided the contest. He made so resolute an onset, that the enemy was instantly broken, and obliged to fly to the thickest parts of the woods.

The remaining divisions of the British army that were yet engaged, had at the same time the good fortune to rout those that were opposed to them, who being informed that their principal troops had been worsted and put to flight, thought it necessary to consult their own safety, by withdrawing with the utmost speed.

The excessive fatigue undergone by the British troops, in encountering such a multitude of enemies, prevented these from being closely pursued. They did not, however, make any halt till they were near twenty miles distant from the field of battle.

So great was the want of provisions in the British army, that Lord Cornwallis was not able to follow the blow he had given the enemy. Their loss in slain and wounded was computed at above two thousand. But what was of more importance, the superiority of the British troops had been confirmed in so conspicuous a manner, that had not every

kind of impediment and difficulty arose to obstruct their progress, such was the dread and terror they had inspired, that it was highly probable the success of this day would have been attended with the most fortunate consequences to the British arms.

The splendour of this victory was clouded, however, by the loss of a number of brave officers and soldiers; small in itself, and in comparison of the glory and advantage that were obtained; but great, when weighed with the smallness of the army of which they formed so considerable a part, and with the professional merit of those who fell.— Among these Colonel Webster was highly and deservedly regretted: his services throughout the whole of the campaign in the Carolinas had been truly eminent; and he had in no little degree contributed to the gaining of the battle in which he lost his life.

Such was the zeal and resolution displayed by the British troops on this memorable day, that it was hard to decide who had distinguished themselves most. By the unanimous consent of all, no man could have exhibited more personal courage, as well as generalship, than Lord Cornwallis did upon this trying occasion. Notwithstanding an ill state of health, he was present wherever there was most danger. To the great satisfaction of the whole army, he had the good fortune to escape without a wound, though two horses were killed under him.

After resting at Guildford two days, during which they wanted bread, the exhausted condition of the country compelled the troops to quit that place, and to direct their march towards Wilmington.— They halted only two days more on their road to that town, in order to procure some provisions.— They now fully experienced how much they had been deceived in the expectation of being joined by numbers in those parts that had been the scene of their
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their military operations. Though victorious, none of their adherents ventured to avow themselves, and take up arms in their favour. Lord Cornwallis issued a proclamation, in order to stimulate them; but it proved ineffectual.

After a tedious march of three weeks, the British army arrived at Wilmington on the seventh of April. Here the first care of Lord Cornwallis was to provide a sufficiency of supplies, to enable him to take the field as soon as he had given his people that repose to which they were so justly entitled, after the long course of toil and hardship they had endured, and had submitted to with so much readiness and alacrity.

In the mean time, the inutility of the various plans that had been formed on the supposed co-operation of the friends to the British government, appeared in so strong a light, that all hopes of essential assistance from that quarter were totally at an end. The utmost that was now looked for on their part, was a cheerful submission to the British arms, in case of their success, and such accidental intelligence as they were able to convey, without fear of a discovery.

It now became evident, that the spirit and activity of the party opposite to Britain, were incomparably superior to the exertions of its friends; whence it was not unreasonably inferred, that notwithstanding all assertions to the contrary, the number of these was much smaller than had been represented, and that their timidity and backwardness proceeded from the consciousness of their inferiority in point of strength and numbers.

The frequent representations of their ability and inclination to take an active part in favour of Britain, had more than once led the British commanders into unexpected difficulties. The desire of leaving no means untried that could be productive
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of any success, had induced them to make the utmost trial of the degree of confidence they could place in the promises of aid which they so frequently received. Nor did they ever desist from repeating these trials; being determined that their well-wishers should have no cause or pretext to complain that they had wanted opportunities to testify by their actions, the loyalty and attachment which they had so constantly, and so warmly professed,

CHAP. LVII.

Hurricane in the West Indies.—Secret Treaty between Holland and America.—Rupture with Holland.—Parliamentary Debates relating to these Matters.—Losses of the Dutch,

1781.

THE autumn of the year eighty was marked by one of the most dreadful and destructive hurricanes that was ever experienced in the West Indies. The damage done by it to some of the British and French islands, as well as to their shipping in those seas, was immense, and exceeded any losses, from such a cause, that had yet happened in that part of the world.

The British island that suffered most, was the longest settled, and most flourishing one, Barbadoes. It underwent almost a total destruction. The islands of Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, partook greatly in the general calamity.

The French islands of Martinico and Guadeloupe suffered also dreadfully. The principal towns in both were levelled with the earth. Multitudes were lost through the irruption of the sea and the violence of the storm, especially at Barbadoes, where some thousands perished. Among the vast quantity of shipping cast away were two British ships of the line, and seven frigates, besides other armed vessels. Several French ships of war met with the same fate.

The amount of the terrible losses incurred on this occasion, added to those that had befallen the nation during the preceding summer, by the capture of the East and West India fleets, with
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part of that destined for Quebec, was so enormous, that it spread an extensive alarm throughout the realm. The expences of the war were annually increasing, while, through this accumulation of adversity, the means of supporting it were considerably diminished.

From these motives, together with the remembrance of the domestic horrors during the late riots, the temper of the nation at large became sullen and discontented. It seemed to some, as if the present period had been marked by destiny for misfortunes and mortifications of every kind.

In the mean time, the denial to redress the many grievances complained of in the petitions from the counties in England, contributed powerfully to augment the general dissatisfaction. Various meetings were held, in order to keep alive the resolution taken to insist upon the granting of their demands.

Such was the general disposition of the people, when an accident happened, which called up their attention in a particular manner, as it opened a new and very important scene to their consideration.

Since the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and the Colonies, an intercourse very inimical to the former had been carried on by the Dutch with the latter. Though not openly avowed by the States General, it was encouraged by numbers of individuals, not only of the commercial classes who profited by it, but of all other denominations. The emissaries of France excited such a spirit of enmity to Britain, that all the representations which were made of the detriment accruing to it, from such a conduct being permitted or connived at, made no impression on the States.

When France declared herself in favour of America, the French faction, which had been gradually gaining strength, determined to follow the example
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of that power; but in order at the same time to avoid the resentment of Great Britain, judged it safest to enter into a clandestine treaty with the Americans. To this purpose, a private negotiation was set on foot with the commissioners appointed by Congress.

This negotiation was principally patronized by the regency of Amsterdam, a city that had long been noted for its partiality to the cause of France, or of any power unfriendly to Great Britain. The pensionary of this city, Mr. Van Berkel, a man of abilities, and a sworn enemy to the English, was the person who conducted this business. Being from his office a minister of state of the greatest authority and influence, it was speedily terminated; a friendship and alliance was settled between the Dutch and the Americans; of which the common enmity of both to the British nation became the strongest and surest bond.

The terms of the treaty were indeed provisional, and the treaty itself purely commercial; but the Americans were clearly treated with as a free and independent nation.

Though Amsterdam alone seemed to act upon this occasion, yet the world well understood, that the weight of this great and powerful city was too heavy to be counterbalanced by that of the whole province, of which it was the capital, or even of all the Seven United Provinces.

It was from the knowledge of this, together with the superiority of the French faction in Holland, that the Congress relied on the strength and validity of any measures and transactions that might take place between the respective agents of the contracting parties.

Still, however, this treaty was negotiated and concluded in the utmost concealment and privacy. It was signed on the fourth of September, seventy-eight,

eight, by Mr. Doneville, a Dutch merchant, on the one hand, and Mr. William Lee on the other; both of whom had repaired to Aix-la-Chapelle for that purpose, in order to avoid all suspicion.

This transaction had now lain dormant two entire years; but the ruling powers in America were highly desirous that it should be brought to maturity, and openly acknowledged on the part of Holland. The events of these two years were such as encouraged them to think that the Dutch would not be backward to comply with their wishes. Much ill blood and altercation had been created between Great Britain and Holland, through the continual assistance given to France by the latter, and the resolute methods adopted by the former, in order to prevent it.

Such was the situation of affairs, when Congress took the resolution to depute a person of the highest rank among them to Holland, in the character of an ambassador, to the intent of bringing the business of an alliance between both countries to a solid and effectual conclusion.

The person chosen for this important embassy was Mr. Henry Laurens, late President of the Congress, a gentleman of known abilities, and respectable character. The high station he had filled with so much propriety and applause, gave additional weight to the commission he was invested with; and it was hoped would prove a motive for accelerating the union proposed between Holland and America.

With this view and destination, he embarked at Philadelphia, in a vessel bound to Holland; but it was taken on its voyage, in the beginning of September, eighty, and all the papers relating to his mission were seized. He was himself, on his arrival in England, committed as a state prisoner to close confinement in the Tower.

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The object of his commission being fully discovered by his papers, the British ambassador at the Hague remonstrated in very spirited terms to the States General, on the unfriendliness and impropriety of suffering such transactions to pass unnoticed and uncensured in any of their subjects. He demanded a formal disavowal of the proceedings of the regency of Amsterdam, as an adequate satisfaction for the insult offered to Great Britain, and a due punishment on the offenders.

The memorial to this purpose was presented to the States General on the tenth of November, eighty, and was followed by another, still more pressing, on the twelfth of December : but neither of them produced any effect. The only answer that could be obtained was, that they would be taken into consideration, according to the usages and forms customary in such matters ; and that a reply would be given, as soon as the nature of their government would admit.

This answer not proving satisfactory to the court of Great Britain, it came to the resolution of recalling the British ambassador from the Hague, and of proceeding to immediate hostilities against the subjects of the United Provinces.

A declaration was issued accordingly, on the twentieth of December, wherein the conduct of the States General was severely reprehended for their neglect of fulfilling the part of friends and allies to Great Britain, to which they were bound by so many treaties, and for the unjust and inimical partiality constantly displayed in favour of France, and every other foe to the British nation, as well as for the countenance and support so notoriously afforded to the Americans. This conduct was imputed to the prevalence of the French faction in Amsterdam : it was specified in the declaration, that, were it practicable, the British government would

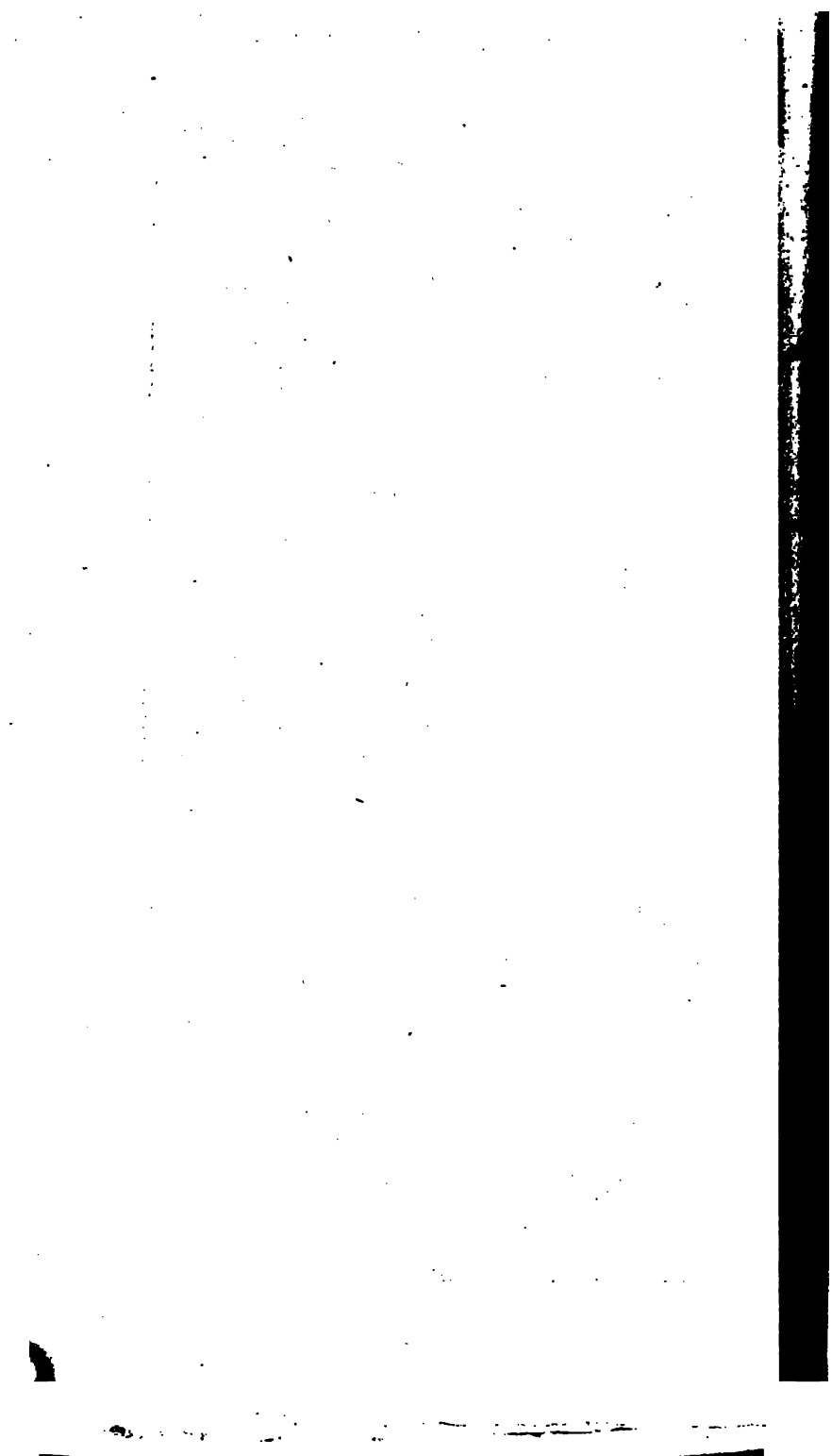
would direct the vengeance of Britain against that city alone, without involving the remainder of the Dutch nation in the punishment which that part of it so justly merited. The utmost readiness was at the same time professed to return to the ancient union and amity between Great Britain and Holland, on this latter's giving satisfaction for its past, and security for its future conduct. "We mean only," concluded the declaration, "to provide for our own security, by defeating the dangerous designs that have been formed against us. We shall ever be disposed to return to friendship with the States General, when they sincerely revert to that system which the wisdom of their ancestors formed, and which has now been subverted by a powerful faction, conspiring with France against the true interests of the Republic, no less than against those of Great Britain."

In this manner was added another enemy to the formidable combination already subsisting against this country. What rendered him the more dangerous was his proximity, and his great maritime strength. It was not, however, without the utmost astonishment, that the politicians of Europe beheld a connection formed between the House of Bourbon and the United Provinces. The dangers to which they exposed themselves by such a measure, were manifest; while the utility resulting from it was problematical. In the opinion of the unprejudiced, it seemed to be momentary at best; and threatened to subject them to many more inconveniences in future than they would derive benefits from it at the present.

Their alliance with America was considered at the same time as a measure dictated by the intrigues of France, and taken up in a fit of resentment for the obstructions they had met with in the prosecution of their commercial schemes with both

Instead





Thus, instead of attending to the essential and long established maxims of their policy, they were led away by the private views of merchants and traders, whose transient benefit was unhappily consulted, in preference to the permanent interest of the state.

In this critical situation of national affairs, a new Parliament was called, and met at the close of October. The Speech from the Throne was remarkably spirited, and descriptive of the resolution and success with which Great Britain had so nobly withstood and disappointed the efforts of its numerous enemies. It held out with great strength and animation of language, the necessity of continuing vigorously to exert the courage and power of the nation, in order to obtain an honourable peace.

A warm debate was occasioned in the House of Commons by the motion for the address. The question so often agitated concerning the propriety of the American war, was again brought up and ligated on both sides with great energy. Those who maintained the necessity of still carrying it on, pledged the successes of the preceding campaign; the terror with which the astonishing valour and exertions of the British troops had struck the enemy; the shame and injustice of relinquishing our friends and adherents to the mercy of their oppressors; and the disgrace, as well as detriment, of suffering America to fall into the hands of the House of Bourbon.

It was insisted, that the terms offered by Great Britain were highly acceptable to the majority of the people in the Colonies, and were opposed by none but the emissaries of Congress; which, though the most powerful, was by no means the most numerous party. The complaints occasioned by the hardships experienced by persons of all ranks, and,

above all, the depreciation of their paper currency shewed in what little credit the ruling powers were held throughout the continent, and with what readiness the people at large would embrace an opportunity of returning to their former connection with Britain, were they sure of being firmly and permanently supported.

The ancient motto of Oliver Cromwell ought now, it was asserted, to become the inflexible determination of Great Britain. Peace should be sought at the point of the sword. The only means of humbling France, was to crush rebellion in America. Were Britain to make those concessions that were now demanded by the Colonists; were it to acknowledge their independence, even this step, low and humiliating as it was, would not purchase peace. The Americans knew their situation too well to dare abandon France at the present moment. The policy of that power had too deeply embarked them in its interests for them to relinquish it, without exposing themselves to such inconveniences and dangers as the commonest prudence would lead them to shun. They considered themselves as tied down by every principle of honour and gratitude, not to forsake the French; nor were they less swayed in this matter by motives of interest: were they to withdraw themselves from the confederacy that had been formed for their support, they would not only be branded with infamy, but would in future meet with no allies in case of need.

It was necessary, for these reasons, to compel them, by dint of arms, to return to submission.— Were they to be brought to such a condition as to find themselves unable to pursue the contest, they could then give it up without disgracing themselves; and would stand acquitted to those powers who were now contending for them. It could not therefore be expected they would desist, before they

they were reduced to the extremest necessity of doing it.

Intrepidity and perseverance were, it was well known, the native attributes of the British nation : they had been put to the severest test, and had not yet been found deficient. It was to be hoped they would endure to the last, and triumph over all difficulties.

Such was the purport of the various arguments used by those who pleaded for the continuance of coercive measures in America.

Opposition was no less vehement in representing the perpetual disappointments of ministerial hopes in America, and in combating their future expectations of success by the experience of past misfortunes.

They asserted that the universal sense of the nation was for immediate peace with America, in order to prosecute the more vigorously the war into which we had been unfortunately drawn against so many powers, envious of our grandeur and prosperity. These were the enemies against whom our vengeance ought to be pointed; to humble them ought now to be our principal aim : in such case only the ambition of victory and conquest was laudable. Here we stood upon the ground of self-defence ; but by pursuing the system of deluging the plains of America with the blood of our fellow citizens, as well as our own, in order to bring them to our terms, we acted the part of tyrants; which even the most splendid successes could not justify.

But no real success, they said, had attended the British arms during the present campaign. Glorious victories had been won, and the highest reputation had been obtained by the skill of the commanders, and the bravery of the soldiers. But what had been the result of these hard fought battles ? Was the enemy subdued ?—Was a single province fairly

reduced to our obedience?—The sum total of all our exploits was the acquisition of great honour, — but no more.

On that high summit of military fame whereon we stood in America, we were not, however, without antagonists. Though confessedly our inferiors, they still maintained their ground with invincible obstinacy; and daily made it evident, that victories or defeats were equally conducive in weakening our strength, and confirming them in their resistance, from the sure prospect of wasting our resources, by patiently enduring the pressures brought upon them by our power. Their passive valour would, in the end, prove an over-match for that active spirit which prompted our people to those indefatigable and surprizing exertions, that threw such a lustre on their character. Though the Americans could not conquer, they would weary us out; and the day would come, when we should be obliged to surcease through mere lassitude, or entangle ourselves perhaps in such difficulties, through the enterprisingness of our disposition, as might be found insurmountable, and lead us when we least expected it, into irretrievable ruin.

Notwithstanding the assertion so often and so confidently repeated, that a majority of the inhabitants of America were friendly to this country, constant experience demonstrated the contrary. In the midst of our victories, we still found them averse to conciliation, though we held out terms as favourable as they could desire, short of independence. But instead of joining our armies, even those who had promised obedience, and bound themselves in the most solemn manner to be faithful to our cause, forsook it the moment they found an opportunity, and repaired to the enemy with those very arms we had put into their hands, to be used in our defence.

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These were facts of notoriety, and proved that no dependence could be placed on the apparent submission of those who were awed by our arms. Nor was the assistance of those who came over to us a circumstance worth dwelling upon; they were altogether but a handful, when compared with the residue of their countrymen who were in opposition to Britain.

The only good consequence derivable from our successes, appeared to be the means they afforded of obtaining honourable terms of peace. While the impression arising from them rested upon the minds of the Americans, we ought, if wise, to hold out offers of reconciliation with them of such a nature, as they could not consistently with their evident interest refuse to accept. To say that their connection with France was so binding, that they could not release themselves from it, was nugatory in the extremest degree. Were we to grant them independence, neither France, nor any other power, could either blame them for closing with the offer, or be able to make them repent it. Were America thoroughly sensible that Britain harboured no farther designs of coercion or enmity, it could not be doubted, they would meet us with every disposition we could reasonably wish to find in men to whom we were willing to make the concessions they demanded.

It had long ago been the opinion of the most experienced commanders, that a conquest of America was impracticable, with all the strength that Great Britain could employ for that end. The nature of the country fought for the inhabitants, and rendered them invincible. If this was true while we had them alone to encounter, it was certainly much more manifest since the combination now framed in their favour by every nation in Europe, without exception.

Strange as it was, and unexampled in history, we were become an object of enmity to every state. They all co-operated openly or clandestinely, to the detriment of Great Britain. Its humiliation was the avowed aim of all the crowned heads upon the European continent. The causes of this inveteracy were the incomparably superior degree of greatness and prosperity enjoyed by this nation over all others, and the excessive jealousy it had excited. Had we not unadvisedly quarrelled with our Colonies, we might still have remained on that splendid footing, and have set their envy at defiance. But their pride had too long suffered from our superiority, to omit so fair an opportunity of humbling it, as that which our mismanagement had thrown into their hands.

Still, however, we might emerge out of our difficulties, by recurring to a pacification with America. It were the height of imprudence and obstinacy to continue a contest, from which nothing but a series of mortifications had arisen, and could be expected. An application of the enormous expence vainly profused in that quarter, to a prosecution of the war with our ancient and hereditary enemies, would in all likelihood, turn the scale so effectually in our favour, as to restore us to that state of strength and importance, from which our embracing more objects than we could possibly accomplish, had occasioned us for the present to decline.

In consequence of these various arguments, opposition insisted that the address should not, in any part, give the least countenance to the prosecution of the American war. But after a long altercation, an address, in conformity with the Royal speech, was voted upon a division, by a majority of two hundred and twelve, against one hundred and thirty.

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The violence which accompanied the reprobation of the American war, did not, however, prevent the thanks of the House being voted with perfect unanimity to Sir Henry Clinton, Lord Cornwallis, and Admiral Arbuthnot, for their respective services in that part of the world.

In the mean time, the rupture with Holland became an object of serious discussion, both in and out of doors. On the meeting of Parliament, after the usual recess at the expiration of the year, a message was delivered to both Houses from the Throne, conveying a formal notification of hostilities being declared against that state.

The observations made by opposition were, that however the justice of the war with Holland might be incontrovertible, still the prudence and policy of such a measure were highly questionable. Great Britain was so deeply involved, that it behoved ministers to use all their abilities in preventing any accession of help to its numerous enemies. Haste and precipitation did not become the present circumstances of this country; it were even wiser to connive at small injuries, than expose ourselves to greater, by resenting them at an improper season.

To dissemble and temporise in dangerous situations, was the long-established maxim of all sound politicians. It would have reflected no disgrace upon the British ministry, had it, conformably to this rule, avoided a rupture with a state, which, though it might have been deficient in the performance of its treaties with Britain, could not strictly be ranked in the number of its enemies.

Holland, though governed by commercial maxims, wanted neither sense to perceive its true interests, nor spirit to assert them. The Dutch were allied to us from necessity: they knew that the House of Bourbon could only propose its own views in its pretences to vindicate their rights against the

encroachments of the English. They had accordingly delayed, with the utmost care and circumspection, to enter into any measures that could be interpreted as directly hostile to this country.— Though the mercantile classes in Holland had not been prevented from supplying the French with various articles, to our detriment, still as the States had not manifested any unfriendly designs, it was an act of unpardonable temerity to compel them, in their own defence, to become our avowed enemies, and to join the confederacy formed by the intrigues of the House of Bourbon.

True it was, the Dutch had not observed the treaties framed in former times between Great Britain and Holland : but ministry ought to know that treaties were the result of actual circumstances, and were no further attended to than present exigencies made it necessary. The Dutch beheld us at variance with a part of our own people ; they saw the whole world preparing to reap the benefit of a commercial correspondence with that great and important part of the British empire. Stimulated by motives of profit, Amsterdam had followed the example ; but was alone and uncountenanced.

Ministry should remember, that the fate of every state which acted with haughtiness in the day of its power and prosperity, was to raise a combination against it, soon or late. Spain had experienced this truth two centuries ago ; France had in the last ; and it was the turn of Great Britain to feel its effects in the present. Ministerial arrogance had driven America into rebellion, and now made Holland our foe.

The ministerial answer to these allegations was, that Great Britain had displayed a patience and moderation to which the conduct of the Dutch, in the present instance by no means entitled them. — They had not only refused the assistance specified and stipulated

stipulated by the most solemn treaties; but had in direct contradiction to them assisted the enemies of Britain in the most open and avowed manner, with implements and materials for the construction and equipment of their navies. When warned of the injury accruing to this country by such a proceeding, they had unwarrantably distorted the tenour and words of a treaty, into a privilege granted them to act in this manner; as if it were possible, in the nature of things, that any nation could be guilty of such absurdity, as to consent to its own destruction. They nevertheless persisted in this violation of friendship as well as of the plainest meaning of those treaties.

Would opposition deny that it was from Holland France received its naval stores, and those numerous articles that enabled it to contend with the fleets of Britain? Was it not clear and notorious, that the Dutch exerted themselves to serve the French with as much zeal, as if they were the best friends to Holland, and the English their greatest enemies?

It was a mere subterfuge, to say that Holland could not be considered as acting in the light of a principal in the treaty concluded between the regency of Amsterdam and the agents of America. — That city was well known to bear a preponderating sway in all the deliberations of the States General. The fact was, they did not dare to call the conduct of that city into question. What it had done, ought therefore to be considered as the act and deed of the Dutch republic. It was nugatory to disjoin the measures resolved upon by the Amsterdammers from those of the States themselves. The French faction, by its influence in that city, governed, in reality, the Seven United Provinces. — In declaring hostilities against them, Britain had
done

done no more than determined to attack France in one of its most vulnerable parts.

So far was the British ministry from conducting itself arrogantly with Holland, that in the repeated remonstrances presented to the States, on the unfriendliness and the impropriety of permitting their subjects to carry on this pernicious intercourse with France, no arguments were used but such as arose from the necessity of continuing the long amity and good offices that had so long subsisted between both countries, to their evident and reciprocal benefit. So cautious of giving the least offence or cause of complaint, so circumspectful was the British ministry in every step that was taken, that when constrained by absolute necessity to cut off this channel of supply from the French, it still preserved the property of the ships laden with stores for France to the Dutch owner. His cargo, when seized, was paid for, and his vessel returned. Thus France alone was detrimented by the seizure; and no reason to complain was given to the merchants in Holland, any more than to the States.

Was it consistent with the dignity of Great Britain tamely to submit to the treatment it had received in the person of its ambassador? Had opposition forgot the slight and disrespect shown to the requisitions made in the King's name to the States General, for satisfaction on account of the city of Amsterdam's breach of the peace between both nations? Was not the silence so haughtily affected on this occasion by the States, a refusal, in effect, to give any satisfactory answer? Was it not making themselves accessory to the insult offered to the Crown of Great Britain? Was it otherwise than participation in a measure so glaringly offensive to this country, to pass it over without the least censure or disapprobation?

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The danger of increasing the number of our enemies was purely ideal. The Dutch were already our foes; the more dangerous, as, under the pretence of treaties, they laboured with all their might to do us every injury in their power. Under this knowledge and conviction, it was unworthy of the spirit and character of the British nation to make use of a dissimulation which our enemies would construe into fear and consciousness of our debility. The Dutch themselves would be the readiest of any to profit of this averseness in us to resent their behaviour, and would feel an additional fervour in the cause of our enemies.

When matters were come to such a crisis between two states, nothing but pusillanimity or weakness could prevent the aggrieved party from doing itself justice. Neither of these, it was well known, was the case of Great Britain. It had hitherto faced its many adversaries with a strength and courage which they had not been able to overcome. Their resources, from daily experience, appeared nowise superior to our own. We met them wherever they were to be found, and the balance of war was far from being in their favour. The addition of Holland to the numerous host we had to encounter, was more nominal than effective. The Dutch had long combated us by means, which, though indirect, had proved highly injurious to this country. By compelling them to stand forth openly, they would henceforward be liable to receive that chastisement from us which they had hitherto contrived to evade. We had done no more than dragged a lurking foe from his concealment, and obliged him to avow himself.

Holland, in espousing the cause of America, and of the House of Bourbon, had broke that system of European politics, on which the balance of power had so long rested. This balance it was the
interest

interest of Holland, more than of any other state, to preserve entire and unimpaired. Were it to be destroyed, Holland would become the first victim of her own erroneous politics. The very object of the war on the part of Great Britain, was not more the reduction of her refractory Colonies, than the maintenance of that balance. The experience of two centuries had proved the necessity of Great Britain and Holland's united co-operation in its support. To them it was chiefly owing that Europe had resisted the power of Spain and France successively. It was much to be lamented, that despicable considerations of transient and precarious gains, could have influenced the ruling powers in the Seven United Provinces to abandon the cause of Europe, and to betray their own country. It would evidently be the principal sufferer, from the measures they had been so fatally persuaded to adopt, in contradiction to those maxims of policy which had so long been considered as the fundamental rule of their conduct by the wisest of those who had been at the head of the Dutch commonwealth ever since its foundation.

It was clear that the States General had determined to proceed farther than a simple permission to their subjects to supply France with those articles which were necessary for a civil war. The mercantile classes in Holland, inspired by the French faction, and prompted by the basest views of interest, had presented repeated petitions for convoys to their trading fleets. These petitions, it was known, had produced the intended effect; armaments were now preparing in the Dutch ports to protect the vessels destined to carry naval stores to the ports of France. Such a measure, added to the treaty framed between the governing men in Holland and the Americans, left no room to doubt of their real intentions respecting Great Britain, and de-

demonstrated their hostility beyond the power of refutation.

Was it therefore consistent with prudence to wait until the preparations indisputably meant against this country should be brought to such a state of forwardness, as to enable the Dutch to enter upon the execution of the designs they had formed against us? Did not prudence dictate the speediest anticipation of their sinister intentions?—In the preceding war, it was precisely by a preventive step of this kind that we frustrated the projects of France before it had leisure to bring them to maturity.

The arguments used in Parliament by ministry were approved of, as justly founded, by the majority of people without doors, as well as within.—The conduct of the Dutch was indeed so inimical, that no apology could be made for it. The only question that was agitated in the political circles, was the propriety of resenting it in the present very critical circumstances of the nation.

Hostilities began against them by a detention of their shipping in the different ports of England, and by the capture of two men of war of fifty-four guns. On the granting of letters of marque and reprisal against them, a multitude of privateers was added to those that were already in commission; and a very great number of Dutch merchant-men were brought into the British ports.

Instructions were dispatched at the same time to the commanders of the British forces in the West Indies, to proceed to immediate hostilities against the Dutch settlements in those parts.

Admiral Rodney was returned from his expedition to North America, and was preparing to attack such of the French islands as seemed least in a condition of defence, when he was apprised of the rupture

rupture with Holland, and directed to commence hostilities against its possessions in the West Indies.

The most important of these was the island of St. Eustatius, commonly called Statia. Though not twenty miles in circumference, it abounded with riches, through the vast conflux of trade from every other island in those seas. Being a free port, it was open to the subjects of all the powers at war. By these means a communication was established among them, through which they were enabled to carry on a commercial correspondence, which greatly mitigated the inconveniences of war. The Dutch, under whose mediation all trading business was transacted, reaped, of course, immense benefit from the numberless commissions with which they were entrusted, and from the vast sale of those merchandises which they disposed of to all parties, in virtue of their neutrality.

Such was the situation of this famous island when Admiral Rodney suddenly appeared before it with a naval and land force, which it was in no condition to resist. It surrendered therefore without any stipulations.

The value that fell into the hands of the captors was prodigious. It amounted, at a moderate calculation, to four millions sterling. Exclusive of what was found ashore, upwards of two hundred sail of merchant-men were taken, besides a ship of sixty guns, a frigate of forty, and five others from thirty to fourteen.

So little were the inhabitants of this island under any apprehensions of danger, that their warehouses were not sufficient to contain the quantity of commercial articles imported for sale. The very streets and beach were, in the Admiral's own words, covered with hogsheds of tobacco and sugar. The Governor could hardly give credit to the officer who summoned him to surrender.

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The intelligence of this capture was the more agreeably received in England, as the loss fell chiefly upon the city of Amsterdam. The French and Americans were also considerable sufferers, and not a few of the British merchants; who, trusting to the neutrality of the place, had consigned valuable cargoes to their correspondents there; all which, on its falling into the hands of Britain, were seized as Dutch property.

The settlements belonging to the Dutch on the southern continent of America, situated on the rivers Berbice, Issequibo, and Demerary, shared the same fate as Statia. They were taken by a squadron of privateers, who associated for that purpose. The treatment these settlements experienced was much more favourable than that of the people at Statia. The fact was, that no suspicions lay against them of having proved serviceable in any degree to the enemies of Great Britain; while, on the contrary, Statia was looked upon as the magazine from whence the French islands were supplied with provisions, and all kinds of necessaries; and whence the Americans drew immense quantities of warlike stores, as well as other articles of merchandise.

In consequence of the different light in which they were viewed, the former were left in possession of their private property and civil government. Previous to their being attacked, they had, upon information of the rupture between Great Britain and Holland, sent a deputation to Barbadoes, with offers to submit on terms usually granted in such cases, and referring for that purpose to those upon which they imagined Statia had surrendered; in these, however, they had the good fortune not to be involved.

The confiscation of mercantile property at Statia, occasioned heavy complaints among the British merchants in the West Indies, and in Britain itself.

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Warm representations were made upon the subject, followed by proceedings in the courts of law.—Hence animosities arose between the complainants and the commanders of the British armaments in those parts; which, it was thought, proved not a little prejudicial to the service.

The reduction of these various possessions of the Dutch, in this part of the world, was felt by them in the most sensible manner. The profits derived from the commerce, of which they were the mediators and managers, were immense. It was a commerce of clear and certain gain, as it was attended with no risk on their part, and consisted wholly in consignments.

Such heavy losses in the very outset of a war, into which they had drawn themselves without necessity, and against their demonstrable interest, excited the loudest clamours among those people throughout the Seven United Provinces, who were not entirely devoted to the French. That party which had recommended violent measures against Great Britain, began to lose its popularity in proportion to the distresses which were now daily accumulating on the trading individuals, of which the Dutch nation is chiefly composed.

CHAP. LVIII.

Naval Transactions in the West Indies.—Loss of Tobago and Pensacola.—Continuation of the Siege of Gibraltar.

1781.

THE little progress made by the confederacy against Great Britain, still continued a matter of utter astonishment to Europe. With a decided superiority in number of ships and of men in favour of the former, the war was hitherto carried on with so much equality of success on both sides, that it was evident the palm of skilfulness and exertion belonged incontrovertibly to this country.

The close of the year eighty had left France disappointed in North America, and enfeebled in the West Indies; where the fleets of Great Britain had maintained the unrivalled command of the sea, and had begun the naval campaign of the ensuing year with the most alarming successes against its Dutch allies.

In order to retrieve these disgraces, and to strike a blow of decisive consequence, the Court of France spent the winter in making the greatest efforts to repair its marine, and enable it to return to a fresh trial of skill and fortune with that of Britain.

About the end of March, eighty-one, the Count de Grasse sailed from Brest, at the head of twenty-one ships of the line, and a fleet of merchantmen and transports, consisting of near three hundred vessels, on board of which were six thousand troops. His destination was for Martinico, where he was to be joined by another squadron.

The naval strength under the British commanders on the windward station, amounted at this time to twenty-one sail of the line: most of these were detached under Admirals Hood and Drake, to meet Count de Grasse, and prevent his junction with the squadron at Martinico.

On the twenty-eighth of April, they received notice of the approach of the French fleet, and took their position between it and the harbour of Port Royal. But notwithstanding their vigilance, the various movements they were obliged to make, in order to come up with the French fleet, enabled the ships in that port to sail out of it, and join the Count de Grasse. By this junction he had a superiority of six ships of the line; his force amounting to twenty-four, and that under Admiral Hood to eighteen.

Notwithstanding this great disparity, the utmost endeavours were used by the British Admiral to bring the enemy to action. As the French were to windward, it lay entirely at their option whether to accept or decline an engagement. They adhered upon this occasion to that system of fighting which they had constantly practised ever since the beginning of the war; they engaged at too great a distance for any decision, and kept so far aloof on this day in particular, as to throw their fire entirely away during a great part of the action.

It seems the French Admiral was convinced that the British fleet, through the variety of efforts it would make to close in with him, would afford some opportunity of taking it at a disadvantage. This hope was in some measure accomplished. Its van, with some ships of its centre division, were in consequence of their endeavours to near him, compelled to sustain such a superiority of fire, as did considerable damage to several of them, though not without still
more

more detriment to those French ships with which they had been able to close.

After making various endeavours to approach the enemy, finding they were fruitless, from the caution with which they kept the weather-gage, Admiral Hood desisted from firing. His loss of men was very inconsiderable; but five of his ships suffered much from their excessive eagerness to bring on a close action, which had exposed them to the enemy's whole fire. Among those who fell in this engagement was Captain Nott, of the Centaur, an officer of acknowledged merit.

On the thirtieth of April, Admiral Hood made another effort to gain the wind of the enemy, in order to renew the fight; but after employing the whole day to that purpose ineffectually, on being apprized of the bad condition of several of his ships, he thought it most prudent to steer for the island of Antigua, to repair their damages. The French Admiral, on perceiving this motion, followed him with his whole fleet, and pressed so close upon his rear, that the British Admiral was compelled to make a stand for its protection; it was so resolute and well conducted, that notwithstanding his great superiority, no other advantage was gained by the enemy than remaining unattacked in sight of the British fleet.

After it had been sufficiently refitted, and joined by the ships under Admiral Rodney, he proceeded to Barbadoes, in order to be at hand to observe the movements of the enemy.

The Marquis de Bouille, Governor of Martinico, had, in the mean time, formed a project for surprising St. Lucia, the situation of which enabled the British fleet to keep the former island in continual alarm, and to discover and counteract all the motions of the French. To this intent, on the night of the tenth of May, he landed a strong de-

tachment at St. Lucia, and summoned the garrison to surrender. But though it was at this time far from numerous, the commanders, after returning a resolute answer to the message, prepared themselves with so much judgment and courage to receive the enemy, that they quickly found an obstinate resistance would be made.

On the twelfth, Count de Graffe, at the head of twenty-five sail of the line, stood in for Gros Islet Bay, where he intended to cast anchor; but the fire from the batteries on shore obliged him to bear away without attempting it. The Marquis de Bouille was not more successful on his side. The dispositions made by General St. Leger were so advantageous, notwithstanding the smallness of the force under his command, that the French did not dare to proceed in their intended attack; and withdrew with the whole armament to Martinico.

To compensate for this failure, a large body of French troops was dispatched to effect a landing on the island of Tobago. On their appearance off the island on the twenty-third of May, an express being sent to Admiral Rodney, six ships of the line were ordered to its assistance, under Admiral Drake, with a reinforcement of troops, under General Skeene.—Admiral Drake, on his arrival in sight of Tobago, discovered the whole French fleet, consisting of twenty-seven ships of the line, between him and the island. This rendering it impossible to fulfil his commission, he returned to Barbadoes.

In the mean time the French had landed their troops, to the number of three thousand regulars. The whole force collected to oppose them did not much exceed four hundred men, consisting chiefly of planters.

The great superiority of the enemy made it necessary for them to retire to a very strong eminence, from whence they could discern their motions, and
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command a view of the whole island. They were closely invested by the French on every side : but they defended themselves with so much vigour, that the enemy, exasperated at a resistance which they represented to the inhabitants as entirely useless, and proceeding from mere obstinacy, threatened to destroy their plantations and property, in case they continued it beyond the term of twenty-four hours.

But these threats did not in the least intimidate them. They persisted as resolutely as ever in throwing every possible obstruction in the way of the enemy. They defended the post to which they had retired during the space of eight days, though exposed to all the inconveniencies of the weather, from the want of covering.

A large reinforcement arriving from Martinico, with the Marquis de Bouille, accompanied with the whole French fleet, under the Count de Grasse, they were now so closely pressed on all sides, that very little hopes remained that they would be able to maintain their ground, especially after receiving notice that a body of troops, intended for their assistance, had been obliged to put back, to avoid falling into the hands of the French.

This news did not however discourage them.— Resolving to hold out to the last extremity, they now prepared to quit the post they occupied, in order to take possession of another ; as the enemy had by dint of numbers made themselves masters of several passages, through which it would not be practicable to prevent them from penetrating to the ground they had hitherto so valiantly maintained.

Early in the morning of the first of June, the garrison began its retreat towards the place proposed ; and before the enemy was apprized of this motion, had taken possession of a post of great strength and importance. The Marquis de Bouille, highly chagrined at being disappointed in his ex-

pectations of forcing them in their former post, resolved to put in execution the menaces that had been already held out to them.

He followed the garrison with all possible celerity; but finding they were so advantageously situated as to set his utmost efforts at defiance, he ordered some plantations to be set on fire, and threatened to renew the same orders at the expiration of every four hours, until the island was surrendered.

This execution of the dreadful menaces that had been made, though it did not stagger the resolution of some, who had determined to lose their all rather than submit, overcame the perseverance of the majority. They insisted that a treaty should be opened with the French commander; the military were of the same opinion; deeming any farther resistance of no utility, as the want of relief would certainly compel them at last to submit.

Governor Ferguson finding it impossible to prevent the determination to surrender from taking place, thought it most prudent, though he refused to concur in it at first, to interpose in making the best terms for the inhabitants he could in the present circumstances obtain. His mediation was so effectual, that the terms granted to them were highly favourable, being nearly the same as those that took place at the capitulation of Dominica.

As soon as Admiral Rodney was informed that, contrary to his expectations, Count de Grasse had sailed from Martinico, to support the attack upon Tobago, he weighed anchor immediately, and repaired with the utmost speed to that island; but found, on his arrival, on the fifth of June, that it had already surrendered two days before.

After receiving this intelligence, Admiral Rodney stood after the French fleet; which having descried towards the Grenadilla islands, on the afternoon of that day, he neared it considerably before sun-set:

sun-set: but their situation was such, as made it highly dangerous to attack them, from the great hazard of being entangled among the Grenadillas, and carried into the channel between Grenada and the Spanish main: here, from the excessive rapidity of the currents, the British fleet would have been driven far to leeward, while the French fleet, by anchoring in the harbour of that island, now in their possession, would have been able to regain its station to windward much more expeditiously than the former; a circumstance that might have been attended with the loss of Barbadoes, before the British fleet could arrive in time to its relief.

As from the superiority of the French fleet, Admiral Rodney was induced to think it would risk an engagement, he kept to the windward of St. Vincent's during that night, and gave orders that all the lights of his fleet should be made as conspicuous as possible to the enemy; that in case they were desirous of engaging him, they might be sure their wishes would be complied with the next day.

But, contrary to the desire and expectation of the British Admiral, at day-light next morning no enemy was in sight. They had tacked in the night, and withdrawn to Courland Bay, in Tobago. This was a heavy disappointment to the whole fleet.—Not doubting, that confiding in their great superiority, the French would not have receded from so marked a challenge, the ships had been cleared for action with the utmost alacrity; and both officers and seamen expressed an eagerness and impatience that promised the most vigorous exertions.

The loss of Tobago, however mortifying, was not an event of any decision, and did not seem to have raised the spirits of the enemy. They still continued, notwithstanding their superiority, to avoid an action with as much solicitude as ever; and when they ventured out of their harbours, acted

with as much care and circumspection, as if their inferiority had been such as to expose them to every danger.

While the French were thus employed in the West Indies, their allies, the Spaniards, were endeavouring to recover those provinces on the continent of North America which they had lost in the preceding war. The success of Don Bernardo de Galvez at Mobile, the foregoing year, encouraged him to plan an expedition for the present against Pensacola, the principal British Settlement in West Florida.

In order to forward this design, he repaired to the Havannah, where great preparations were making for it: but an accident retarded it, similar to those that had been lately experienced in the British and French islands,—a dreadful hurricane assailed the Spanish fleet on its setting out for this expedition; four ships of the line were lost, besides many others, with all the people on board, to the amount of more than two thousand.

The damage received by the Spanish fleet was such, that it was obliged to put back to the Havannah, to be repaired. As soon as it was in a condition for sea, an embarkation was made of near eight thousand men; at the head of which, accompanied with five sail of the line, Don Bernardo de Galvez proceeded for Pensacola; where he arrived on the ninth of March, eighty-one.

Against this force, which was shortly after augmented by the arrival of ten ships of the line, and six frigates, General Campbell, who commanded at Pensacola, had hardly more than one thousand men to oppose, consisting of a few regulars and seamen, with the inhabitants. The entrance of the harbour, which was the principal object of defence, was guarded by two small armed vessels; but they were insufficient to second the batteries that had
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been erected for its protection; and these, without the assistance of some ships of force, were incompetent to the resistance of a vigorous attack.

Such was the condition of Pensacola when the Spaniards appeared before it. Notwithstanding the formidable strength brought by Don Bernardo de Galvez, he met with an opposition which he had not expected. Every inch of ground was disputed with the utmost obstinacy. The passage into the harbour was not forced without great difficulty; nor were the vessels taken that defended it: after setting fire to them, their companies withdrew to the garrison.

After entering the harbour, and effecting a landing, the Spaniards finding, from the dispositions made by the garrison, that the most resolute defence was intended, were obliged to invest the place in form, and make their approaches with all due caution and regularity. The besieged, on the other hand, found them full employment; no opportunity was lost of interrupting their progress, by a continual and spirited fire, and by making occasional sallies; all of which were more or less successful, and struck at the same time the besiegers with astonishment, from the handful of men with which they were executed.

The Spanish General was the more incensed at this resistance, as he knew that no relief could arrive to the garrison, either by sea or land, adequate to the encounter of such a force as he commanded; and that, of course, all that could be done by the besieged was to prolong the date of their surrender. His troops were all regulars; the naval strength with him was under the command of Don Joseph Solano, one of the boldest and most expert seamen in the Spanish service; the siege was conducted by able engineers; and he had an artillery, to use the
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expression of his own officers, fit to have been employed against Gibraltar itself.

With all these advantages, such was the conduct and resolution of General Campbell, and the firmness and bravery with which he was seconded by his officers and men, as well as by Governor Chester, at the head of the inhabitants, that after the siege had been carried on, without intermission, near the space of two months, though the enemy was far from being deficient in spirit and activity, they saw little hopes of its speedy termination.

Despairing of making any effectual impression by means of their cannon, they had erected a battery of mortar-pieces, with which they bombarded a redoubt that commanded the main avenue to the place. On the morning of the eighth of May, a shell accidentally bursting open the door of the powder magazine under the redoubt, it was blown up, with the loss of near an hundred men, killed and wounded.

The enemy instantly advanced to profit of the disorder into which the garrison was thrown by so unforeseen an accident. Fortunately for the garrison, two flank-works remained unhurt; from both which they kept up so heavy a fire upon the assailants, that they were obliged to retire with great loss. This afforded leisure to carry off the wounded, with some of the artillery, and to spike the rest. The enemy, however, having recovered themselves, and preparing for a general storm, it was thought proper to abandon the flank-works, and withdraw into the body of the place.

The possession now taken by the enemy of those outworks, gave them such advantages, that the place was no longer tenable. The situation of those outworks, on a rising ground, enabled them to command the battery opposite to their chief approach with their small arms, and to single out
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the men at their guns. In this extremity, honourable terms of capitulation were proposed to the Spanish General, to which he readily consented; and the place was surrendered to him on the tenth of May eighty-one, after a siege of two months complete.

The successes of Spain in this remote part of the world did not, however, compensate for the constant disappointment of all its efforts against Gibraltar. The siege of this important fortress was continued at a prodigious expence, but without making the least progress. No more had been accomplished by the fleet and army that invested it, than to reduce the garrison to great straits for want of a proper quantity of provisions; but this was an inconvenience to which it submitted with a firmness and alacrity truly astonishing, and highly meritorious.

From the departure of Admiral Rodney in the middle of February, the garrison waited till the month of October, without making any alteration in the usual rations; but as the winter was approaching, the apprehension of the danger and difficulty that might attend the sending of supplies at that time of the year, induced Governor Elliott to reduce the allowance of bread and of meat, and to make some other regulations necessary for enforcing the strictest oeconomy in the article of food.

In the beginning of the year eighty-one, provisions began to be extremely scarce, through the expence of almost all that remained in the public stores, and the indefatigable vigilance of the enemy's cruizers, in cutting off the communication by sea. About the middle of February, the town-bakers left off work, for want of flour; and many of the poorer sort wanted bread. At this time the price of fresh provisions was excessive. Small pigs
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sold at two guineas; turkeys at three; geese at thirty shillings; fowls and ducks at ten shillings; damaged biscuit a shilling the pound; pease eighteen pence; and all other necessaries in proportion. The scarcity of fuel was more felt than of any other article, as it sometimes happened to be hardly sufficient for the dressing of victuals.

The distresses of the garrison were well known in England, as well as the absolute necessity of relieving them without delay. But the numerous demands of assistance from the various quarters of the world, where the war was now waging, rendered this service, however indispensable, a matter of the greatest difficulty.

The fleets of France and Spain were at this period lying ready prepared in port, for the purpose of obstructing any succours to this fortress. The force at Brest was calculated at twenty-six sail of the line, and that at Cadiz at thirty.

To encounter this formidable armament, no greater strength could be collected than twenty-eight ships of the line; which indeed was no small effort, considering the prodigious exertions that Great Britain was at this hour making against such a number of enemies.

This fleet was commanded by the Admirals Darby, Digby, and Ross, all officers of great professional excellence. It was, however, much doubted whether they would be able to accomplish so arduous a design as the relieving of Gibraltar in the face of so formidable an opposition.

They sailed from Portsmouth about the middle of March eighty-one, with a convoy of four hundred merchantmen and transports, destined for the West and the East Indies. The necessity of taking in provisions detained them for some time at Corke in Ireland; from whence they proceeded with the whole fleet for the places of their destination. The merchantmen

merchantmen having left them, to continue their respective voyages, they steered directly for Cadiz, where they found the Spanish fleet moored in the harbour.

Great had been the threats of Spain, that its naval strength would crush that of Great Britain, were it to attempt the relief of Gibraltar. To this intent, the number of ships composing the fleet at Cadiz was highly magnified; and every kind of exaggeration used, in order to deter the British Ministry from hazarding such a measure. The Spanish Admiral, Don Louis de Cordova, was ordered to cruise on the coasts of Spain and Portugal, with the ostensible view of meeting and fighting the British fleet.

After keeping the sea about the space of three weeks, he was accidentally informed of its approach; upon which he withdrew expeditiously into Cadiz; sufficiently proving thereby to the world, how little he dared to look the English in the face upon terms of equality.

France, on the other hand, was so taken up with the vast projects that she had formed in the West Indies, North America, and the East, that she reserved her naval strength totally for those purposes; thinking, probably, that Spain ought to prove herself able to provide effectually for the safety of her own coasts.

April 12th, 1781. The British fleet, in the meantime, conveyed the long-wanted supplies into Gibraltar. In this, however, it met with great obstruction from the besiegers. The gun-boats, already mentioned, were now so much increased in number and strength of construction, and infested the bay in such a manner, as greatly to embarrass the debarkation of stores. As no vessels of the same kind had been yet prepared to oppose them,
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it was with much difficulty the mischief they intended could be prevented.

Their intention was to set fire to the store-ships: To this purpose, they approached them every morning in hazy weather, to the number of between twenty and thirty; several of them carrying mortar pieces. As they used both sails and oars, and withdrew on the rising of any breeze, they eluded all pursuit. They occasioned so much trouble, that several stout frigates were obliged to station themselves along the bay, for the protection of the shipping. This did not, however, hinder them from continuing their molestation. It was the greatest grievance to the British officers and seamen; as, notwithstanding their utmost vigilance and activity, they seldom could get near these gun-boats sufficiently to do them any damage; while, from continual experience, those who managed them had acquired such habitual dexterity, as to know with the nicest exactness what position to take to do the most effectual execution on any part of the town or bay they had in view.

But these were inconsiderable motives of vexation compared to the great object now attained: Gibraltar was now completely relieved, and put into a state that would long enable it to bid defiance to the enemy. This too had been done in a manner equally honourable to Great Britain, and mortifying to Spain, as well as to France; of both which it had been the boast, that Admiral Rodney's expedition to Gibraltar in the preceding year would be the last that the English would ever dare to attempt.

While Europe expressed universal astonishment at the invincible spirit with which the British nation had undertaken and achieved an exploit of so arduous a nature, the Court of Spain, incensed at this unexpected disappointment, determined on the prosecution of its intent with additional exertions.—

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The works before the town were carried on with more vigour than ever, and the most tremendous preparations were made to make it feel the resentment of an exasperated enemy.

Their batteries were mounted with guns of the heaviest metal, and with mortar-pieces of the largest dimensions. The number of the former amounted to near two hundred, and of the latter to above fourscore. The discharge from this prodigious artillery was dreadful. It continued day and night, with hardly any intermission, three full weeks; during which one hundred thousand pounds of gunpowder were consumed, and four or five thousand shot or shells were thrown into the town every twenty-four hours.

The narrow extent of the spot upon which this shower of destruction fell, was too much exposed to escape its effects. The houses, in number about five hundred, were mostly destroyed, and the inhabitants, computed at more than three thousand, experienced every hardship that could arise from the destruction of their dwellings: several of them were killed, and they were all constrained to remove out of the town, and to take shelter at a distance under tents, with such accommodations as could be contrived in such a scene of confusion and horror.

On the departure of the fleet, numbers of them took that opportunity of leaving the town, and going home on board the transports. Many of them had lived long in the place, in comfortable, and some in genteel circumstances, who were now reduced to great distress. Governor Elliott's treatment of them was very humane and compassionate: they were allowed a free passage to England, and were supplied with provisions for the voyage.

In the beginning of June, the enemy had relaxed considerably in their firing; seldom exceeding
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six hundred shot in a day. They continued gradually to diminish it so remarkably, that towards the end of August, they seldom fired in the day; and only discharged six or seven, and sometimes not above three shot in the night.

But in default of the batteries at land, the gunboats proved a terrible annoyance. They renewed their attacks every day, and seldom failed doing more or less execution; which, though not material, served nevertheless, to keep the garrison in perpetual alarms.

In order to restrain them, a battery of guns, peculiarly calculated to throw their shot to a great distance, was erected as near as possible to the enemy. As it reached their very camp, it was determined to open it upon them as often as the gunboats made their attacks. This being soon perceived by the enemy, they thought it prudent to desist in some measure from a mode of hostility which they found was constantly productive of another no less destructive to themselves.

By the close of November, the besiegers had, with immense toil and expence, brought their works to that state of perfection they intended.— The care and ingenuity which had been employed upon them were extraordinary; and it was generally expected that they would be accompanied with the end proposed. The best engineers in France and Spain had united their respective abilities upon this occasion; and both kingdoms were filled with the most sanguine expectations of their success.

While Europe stood, as it were, in suspense concerning the fate of Gibraltar, and many imagined, from the prodigious efforts of the besiegers, it could not make a much longer resistance, the British Governor was meditating in what manner to overthrow at once their long cherished hopes, by the
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total destruction of what had required so much time, skill, and labour to accomplish.

In the night of the twenty-seventh of November, a chosen body of two thousand men was assembled, in order to sally from the town, and destroy the enemy's advanced works and batteries. They marched out with great order and silence, about two o'clock in the morning, under the command of Brigadier-General Ross. They proceeded with the utmost speed to the enemy's works, which they attacked and stormed with the most astonishing rapidity. The enemy were thrown into such confusion, that they fled on every side. The guns and mortars on the batteries were all spiked. The artillery-men, artificers, and sailors, exerted themselves with so much vigour, that in the space of an hour, the magazines of powder were blown up, the store-houses of arms, ammunition, and military implements of every kind, and all the works that had been constructed, were set on fire, and totally consumed. The damage done to the enemy upon this occasion was prodigious: it was computed at near two millions sterling.

This bold and well conducted action struck the enemy with a surprize and dread of the resolution and dexterity of the besieged, from which it was evident by their subsequent operations, they were a long time in recovering. The hopes entertained by their best officers began to diminish. Nothing but the disgrace of abandoning an enterprize on which the honour of the Spanish nation seemed in a manner to depend, prompted them to continue it, after this decisive proof of the precariousness of all their efforts and exertions.

The discouragement occasioned throughout Spain by this event was no less visible. It affected all classes in such a manner as to excite a general dependency; to which, indeed, the averseness of the

Spanish naval commanders to risk an encounter with the British fleet powerfully contributed.

Nor was the Court of Madrid backward to complain that France had been very deficient in her promises to support the Spanish fleet in so necessary a measure as that of intercepting the supplies destined for Gibraltar. To this neglect in their ally, they attributed the continuation of the siege, and, of consequence, the losses and disappointments that were continually attending the army that was besieging it, and the little hopes that now remained of their being able to effect its reduction.

C H A P. LIX.

*Proceedings in Parliament.—Transactions in Holland.
Naval Operations against the Dutch.*

1781.

THE Parliamentary debates upon those various subjects which were the consequences of the American war, employed, as usual, the attention of the public. But they were not carried on with that energy and perseverance during this session, which had attended them in the last. Opposition was in some measure grown weary of a contention which was evidently fruitless, and produced infinite pains and struggles to no purpose. The nation itself was become careless and inattentive in many respects to the proceedings of Parliament in all cases of this nature, from a conviction that whatever were the desires of the public, they would be contradicted and slighted, if opposite to those of ministry.

It was an object of no small surprise, that while meetings were held in so many counties, cities, and towns, for the purpose of reprobating Parliamentary measures, and petitioning the legislature for a total change in the political system of this country, the members chosen by those very places, should act and vote in manifest and constant opposition to the sense of their constituents.

The famous plan of reformation proposed by Mr. Burke the preceding year, had been received by the nation at large with the highest approbation and applause. The people were fully sensible of the indispensable necessity of using the strictest œconomy, in the critical circumstances wherein the

realm was placed. The general argument was, that our enemies having set us the example, it would be the height of impolicy not to follow it. The very considerable addition expected from this plan to the national income, had given it a popularity which it was imagined would induce ministry to coincide with it. Notwithstanding the rejection it had met with from the last Parliament, it was still hoped by numbers, that from its evident utility, it would find, on mature consideration, a majority to support it in the present.

In compliance with these expectations, Mr. Burke ventured again on the fifteenth of February, eighty-one, to bring it forward, and to recommend it with every argument which his knowledge could suggest, and his eloquence could enforce. The dangerous and expensive war in which we were engaged with so many open or clandestine enemies, the prodigious efforts we were continually obliged to make to face them in every part of the globe, as they were obvious motives to alledge, so they were insisted upon with his usual energy.

He took notice, at the same time, that in so perilous a season as the present, such a scheme as he now proposed ought to have proceeded from the ministers themselves. They knew the wants of the nation, and ought therefore to have been the first to administer to them, through those means which from their station and influence were more particularly within their reach. Instead of discouraging this scheme, it behoved them to second it with all their power, and to give it that official weight, without which it could not succeed.

He addressed himself upon this occasion to the Members of the House, as newly chosen by the people, to rectify the mistakes of their predecessors, and to avoid being guilty of those misdemeanors, and neglect in the discharge of their duty,
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which had cast an odium upon their memory. He reminded them in the strongest terms of the remarkable resolutions that had been passed concerning the influence of the crown. He represented them as a legacy bequeathed by the last Parliament to the nation, by way of atoning for that improper subserviency to the will of ministers, of which it had been guilty in so many instances.

These resolutions it was now the duty and business of the present representatives of the people, to stand by with firmness and fidelity : the intention of passing them not having yet been fulfilled, it remained now to give them that virtue and efficacy to which they were entitled, from their evident and acknowledged propriety. As the dissolution of the late Parliament had prevented it from completing what it had so judiciously begun, it behoved the present to accomplish it in the stead of those who had led the way in so salutary a work : were they to neglect it, the public would then know to whom they were to impute the failure of a scheme, to which they so ardently wished all manner of success.

After raising the just hopes and expectations of the people, it would be a disappointment, which they would have reason never to forgive, were they to see them frustrated ; but this he confided would not be the case. The character of those who composed the House was too much at stake to disoblige their constituents in so reasonable a demand, as that of easing their burdens in a manner that was calculated to produce so much public benefit, with so little detriment to private individuals.

The violence with which the majority of the nation had complained of the pressures it felt, had been the principal motive that had inclined the last Parliament to adopt the resolutions now laid before them ; but it would be much more honourable and

meritorious in the present, to give them countenance and protection, from a conviction of their propriety, than to consent to them merely through dint of importunity and clamour.

Administration having determined to oppose with the most invincible spirit, that multitude of enemies which was perpetually encreasing, it behoved them to provide for the contest which they were so resolutely bent not to give up. One of the means of doing this effectually, was to convince the public, that no class, no rank, was exempted from participating in those efforts and labours for the common good, which were recommended to the cheerful acquiescence of the nation with so much warmth and earnestness.

The principal example of perseverance and suffering for the welfare of the state, ought indisputably to be given by those who ruled it. The conspicuity of their station carried a force and influence, which commanded universal imitation. While they led the way, none would refuse to follow. It was from them that nations derived the spirit and magnanimity, which enabled them to surmount obstacles, and become formidable to their enemies. It was therefore incumbent upon them to display that fortitude in encountering difficulties, which they so strenuously required in others.

Economy was now become more necessary than at any former period, as the kingdom had never experienced such distress as at the present. Whoever wished to see the king great and potent, ought to advise him to retrench every unnecessary department in his house, and apply what was saved in this manner, to the maintenance and augmentation of his fleets and armies. It was the duty of the House of Commons, even on a supposition they were entirely the creatures and dependents of the crown, to represent to their Sovereign, how much
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it was incumbent on him to use the strictest frugality, in order to render himself powerful and dreaded by his enemies. Economy was the foundation of success; it produced wealth and strength, and gave life and vigour to all great designs.

Such was the substance of the various arguments used by Mr. Burke, to support the plan of reformation he had so much at heart. He addressed himself to the ministry on this occasion with great earnestness and fervour, entreating them to be candid and explicit in their assistance or opposition of the scheme he once more ventured to propose. If they meant to befriend his endeavours, he requested them to do it effectually; but if they meant to thwart him, he desired they would be expeditious and decisive, that no time nor labour might be lost through fallacious expectations of unintended favour and concurrence.

In consequence of this representation, he moved that a bill might be brought in for the better regulation of the civil establishment, by limiting pensions, and suppressing several useless offices, and employing the sums arising from such retrenchment, to the service of the public.

The ministry, from motives of decency, did not oppose the bill on its first introduction; but when it came to a second reading, it was rejected by a majority of two hundred and thirty-three to one hundred and ninety; and a resolution passed to put it off six months.

Thus ended for the present, an attempt, which from the popularity with which it was favoured, had, for a while, been spoken of as a measure no less promissory than highly deserving of success.

The next object of parliamentary discussion was the loan to defray the expences of the coming year, amounting to the sum of twelve millions. Ministry was accused of having made a disadvantage-

ous bargain for the public ; as a proof of which it was stated, that the price of the new stock was ten per cent. above par.

It was objected in the House by Mr. Fox, that the money might have been borrowed upon much better terms ; and that the manner of obtaining the loan was still more blameable in a political consideration, as it threw near a million into the hands of the minister, to dispose of at his pleasure, without any parliamentary controul ; the evident consequence of which, would be a distribution of it among those who supported his measures.

The reply of ministry was, that though the loan was procured upon advantageous terms to the lenders, it could not be considered as injurious to the public, when the difficulty of levying money at any rate was duly weighed. The times required great condescension from government in the article of borrowing money. Those who possessed it knew how much it was wanted, and availed themselves of the necessities of the state accordingly.

One of the principal allegations against the minister upon this occasion, was, that he had refused a loan of as much out of no less a sum than thirty-eight millions, as he might have chosen to borrow at no more than five per cent. interest. The offers came from persons of noted wealth and responsibility ; but he declined it in favour of those whom he looked upon as more manageable and subservient to his views.

The minister's answer to this charge was, that in his acceptance of offers, he had been partial to no set of individuals whatever ; but had made as beneficial an agreement as lay in his power, with those whom he thought able to fulfil it, without respect of persons.

The bills to exclude contractors from parliament, and to restrain officers in the revenue from voting
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at parliamentary elections, were again proposed this session ; the first by Sir Philip Jennings Clerke, the second by Mr. Crewe, the original movers of both ; but they met with the same rejection as formerly.

Nor were the promoters of the petition from the English counties more fortunate. A delegation had been appointed by these, in order to enforce their demands. They met in London to the number of near forty, and prepared a remonstrance to the House of Commons, comprehending the substance of the petition already presented.

But the title of delegates proved so alarming to numbers, even of such as wished well to the cause they were appointed to maintain, that the delegates themselves came to a resolution to drop it, and to act in no other light than as private individuals.

In this capacity, they drew up a petition which was laid before the House of Commons. Still, however, the denomination of delegates was brought into severe notice, and condemned as an assumption of authority incompatible with that of the House ; the Members of which were strenuously asserted to be the only lawful Delegates of the people of England. All others were unconstitutional ; and to connive even at the existence of them, was submitting to the setting up of a power in this country, independent of the supreme authority of the state.

In consequence of the unfavourable idea in which they were viewed, their petition met with the most violent opposition from the ministerial party ; and was rejected by a majority of two hundred and twelve to one hundred and thirty-five.

Towards the close of the session, an attempt was made to bring forward a plan of reconciliation with America. The immense variety of arguments that had originated from this topic, was again renewed upon this occasion, by those who opposed or se-

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conded the motion. Among other allegations, the inutility of continuing a war, wherein victory or defeat were equally detrimental, was strongly insisted upon. The action at Guildford between the Royalists and the Americans, was adduced as an unanswerable proof, that the successes of the British arms in the field produced none of the consequences usually attending the gain of battles. Had Lord Cornwallis been routed, he could hardly have acted otherwise than he found himself compelled to do, in consequence of that engagement. He had been obliged to retreat before the enemy he had beaten, and to seek a place where to shelter his troops from the attacks and incursions of those whom he had defeated, and whose country he had over-run. If such were the fruits of victory in America, the sooner war could be terminated there, the more safe and prudent such a measure must be acknowledged. After long and animated debates, the motion was rejected by a great majority.

In the mean time, the rupture with Holland, and the losses incurred by the Dutch, occasioned great discontents and complaints in some of the Provinces: that of Zealand in particular, which, from its commercial interests, was more closely connected with Great Britain than the others, expressed a strong averseness to the hostile disposition they profest. It presented a memorial to the States General, signifying its opinion, that a negociation should be set on foot, in order to put an end to the difference between Great Britain and the Republic, and restore the harmony that had so long subsisted between them; and earnestly requesting that such a measure might be speedily adopted.

This memorial was strongly reinforced by the merchants and trading people of the city of Middleburgh, the capital of Zealand. They represented,

sented, in the most free and explicit terms, that the English and Dutch could not go to war with each other, but to their mutual injury: they alledged the long and close intimacy between the British nation and the people of Zealand: this province was full of English traders; the number of those who were settled in Middleburgh alone, amounted to near two thousand. A war with England must therefore prove an event highly destructive to them, as it would indeed deeply affect the interests of the whole Republic.

These remonstrances, however well founded, made no impression on the States. The French faction was now become so powerful, that all reasoning and argument was over-ruled, and the resolution taken to prosecute hostilities against Great Britain with the utmost vigour.

They applied to the courts of Petersburg, Stockholm, and Copenhagen, claiming their assistance in virtue of the compact of neutrality entered into with those powers; and alledging, that the declaration of war on the part of Great Britain, was solely occasioned by their accession to the treaty of neutrality.

But their solicitations, though very urgent and pressing, did not produce the effect that was intended. They had demanded an immediate reinforcement of ships of war; but the jealousy entertained of the British power, was not greater than the dread of exposing themselves to its resentment, in the different members of the armed neutrality. They contented themselves with remaining on the defensive; and were not in the least inclined to give any further provocation to Great Britain. Perhaps too, they thought the combination already formed against it, was fully sufficient for the purposes they had in view; and that by adding to it, that balance of naval power, for the preservation of which it had
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been framed, might, contrary to their intentions, incline too much on the other side.

The situation of the seven United Provinces at this juncture, was very different from what it had been upon former emergencies of this nature: Notwithstanding the Dutch are incontestably a very brave people, they were now, through a long disuse of arms, become very ill adapted, and unprepared for war. Relying too much on the difficulties wherein Great Britain was involved, they imagined that an open and avowed declaration of hostilities against them, was a measure they had not the least reason to apprehend. Britain ought rather to fear they might themselves lead the way in taking such a step.

The naval force of the seven United Provinces bore at this time no proportion to its splendour in the days of yore, when it was able to meet the united strength of England and France on the ocean, and was equally the terror and the admiration of their enemies. Four score years were now elapsed since they had been under the necessity of prosecuting any naval war. During this long interval, their shipping had been totally ingrossed by the occupations of peace and commerce; and Britain was the last power against which it had been expected they should be first compelled to draw the sword.

On a review of their marine, it was found very inadequate to the ideas entertained by the rest of Europe. They were fully aware of the greatness and eminence of the peril to which their trade was evidently exposed, from the vast strength of the enemy with whom they had to contend, together with his proximity and the enterprisingness of his disposition. But notwithstanding the importance of preserving their commerce, the only foundation of their power and prosperity, they were

were unable at this time to equip any more than eleven ships of the line; two of these carried seventy guns, and five hundred and fifty men the nine others sixty guns, and four hundred and fifty men. The remainder of their fleet consisted of fifteen ships of fifty guns, and three hundred men; two of forty, and two hundred and fifty; fourteen of thirty-six, and two hundred and thirty; thirteen of twenty, and one hundred and twenty, besides some armed vessels of lesser force.

This was but a shadow of their ancient power at sea; but depending on the support of the enemies to Great Britain, they were not without hopes to make head against such detached parts of her maritime forces as she could spare from the necessary defence of her numerous possessions in so many parts of the globe.

France at the same time, as a further encouragement, promised to take their distant settlements under her own care and protection, and to exert her utmost for the recovering of those that had been taken by the English. These settlements were yet in a state of infancy; but bade fair under good management to become in time of the utmost value, especially should they remain in the hands of such active and spirited possessors as the English. The yearly produce of the two colonies of Iſſequibo and Demerary, was already rated at ten thousand hogsheds of sugar, five millions of pounds of coffee, eight hundred thousand pounds of cotton, besides a large proportion of rum, cocoa, and indigo. This was considered as no more than a beginning. The soil of both was rich and luxuriant in the highest degree, and promised, when arrived to a proper cultivation, to exceed any European plantation in that part of the world.

In order to procure to themselves as many friends and favourers as possible, and to remove the
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the imputation of impolicy and inconsiderateness, the States General published a long and much laboured manifesto, wherein they endeavoured to justify their conduct towards Great Britain in the present circumstances. But the multiplicity of arguments and reasonings with which it was fraught, did by no means convince the clear-sighted of the rectitude of acceding to the confederation formed against Great Britain, in conjunction with the House of Bourbon. This was in fact adding strength to the compact framed between the members of that already too potent family, whose enmity they had much more reason to dread than that of the British nation, and of whose ambition they had more than once had ample experience.

One of the first objects in contemplation among the mercantile classes in Holland, was the interception of the fleet that was conveying to England the spoils of Statia. Preparations were made to that intent; but they were not ready at the time proposed; and fortune threw this rich prize into other hands.

Intelligence arriving in France, that this valuable fleet was on its way homewards, escorted only by four ships of the line, twice as many were dispatched under M. de la Motte Piquet, who fell in with it on the second of May eighty-one, and captured more than half the convoy. The remainder took shelter in the nearest ports of Ireland.

The British ministry was meditating, on the other hand, in what manner to reduce most effectually the power of Holland. The readiest method to compass this end, was obviously by attacking its foreign settlements; which, from a long duration of peace, were not sufficiently prepared to resist a sudden and vigorous attempt.

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To this intent a squadron was fitted out, consisting of a seventy-four, a sixty-four, and three fifty gun ships, with some frigates and other vessels. A body of three thousand men in transports accompanied it. Commodore Johnston commanded the squadron, and General Meadows the troops.

The object of this expedition was the Cape of Good Hope; by depriving the Dutch of which, their communication with the East Indies would have been materially interrupted, if not in a manner cut off. Alarmed at the danger of losing this important possession, they applied to the court of France for timely assistance against the design, which, they doubted not, was in agitation in England.

France being little less interested than Holland itself, in the preservation of this place, readily exerted itself for the protection of it against Great Britain. M. de Suffrein, an officer of great courage, sailed immediately with five ships of the line, besides frigates, and a body of land-forces to oppose the British armament.

Commodore Johnston had in his way to the Cape, stopped at the Cape de Verd Islands, to wood and water his ships, and refresh his men. He now lay at anchor in Port Praya in the island of St. Jago. So little was the approach of an enemy suspected, that numbers belonging to the troops and squadron were at that time on shore, employed in occupations relative to the shipping, or from motives of relaxation.

On the morning of the sixteenth of April, the French squadron under M. de Suffrein was descried coming round a point at the eastern extremity of the harbour. On this discovery, signals were expeditiously thrown out for the people ashore to hasten on board; and every preparation was made to receive the enemy.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the British Squadron was completely surprised on this occasion, it stood the attack of a much superior force with a coolness and resolution at which the French were equally astonished and perplexed ; as they had promised themselves an easy victory from the inferiority of the English, and the disorder in which they found them.

M. de Suffrein at the head of his line of battle ships, penetrated into the midst of the British shipping, which, including East Indiamen and transports, amounted to about forty sail. Three of the French ships dropped their anchors, and commenced a heavy cannonade ; which was returned with great spirit from every ship in the British fleet that could bring its guns to bear upon them ; the East Indiamen particularly seconded the ships of war with great promptitude and effect.

While M. de Suffrein lay at anchor engaging the fleet, his two other line of battle ships ranged along the harbour, directing their fire where it could do most execution. The fight was continued in this manner during an hour ; when one of the three French ships at anchor, having lost her captain, the crew cut her cable and quitted her station. M. de Suffrein's own ship was obliged to sheer off in the same manner : the third, after losing all her masts, was towed off in a most shattered condition, and did not effect her escape without the utmost difficulty.

They were pursued in their retreat by Commodore Johnston, who used his utmost efforts to overtake them ; but he was prevented from continuing the pursuit far, by the inferiority of the force he had to follow and encounter them, the detriment it had received in action, the lateness of the hour at which he was able to stand out to sea after them, and above all, the danger of being carried out of
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the track of his destination, in the very uncertain quest of a flying enemy.

Thus ended a conflict, wherein the French had not unreasonably promised themselves the fullest success, when it is considered at what a disadvantage they had taken the English. The honour acquired by these in facing and repelling, upon so short a notice, an enemy every way so superior, was acknowledged to be extraordinary; and made no small impression on those who were competent judges of the uncommon efforts of activity and valour, which they must have exerted on so critical an emergency.

Having repaired the damages received in this engagement, the British squadron left Port Praya, on the prosecution of its original plan. Some of the best sailing frigates were dispatched to explore the situation of the enemy. They had the good fortune to capture a Dutch East Indiaman, laden with warlike stores and provisions, and a large sum of money for the settlements.

They learned at the same time, that M. de Suffrein with a fleet of transports was arrived at the Cape, and had landed a very considerable body of troops for the protection of that Dutch colony. The French had put it into a strong state of defence, and furnished it with a numerous garrison, which, added to the strength already there, exceeded that which was destined to attack it.

On receiving this intelligence, the British commanders thought it would be imprudent to persist in the design that had been formed against that place. In order, however, not to return home without having annoyed the enemy, the armament proceeded to the Bay of Saldana, lying about forty miles north of the Cape; where they had been informed that a number of Dutch East Indiamen lay that were homeward bound, and waited the arrival of some

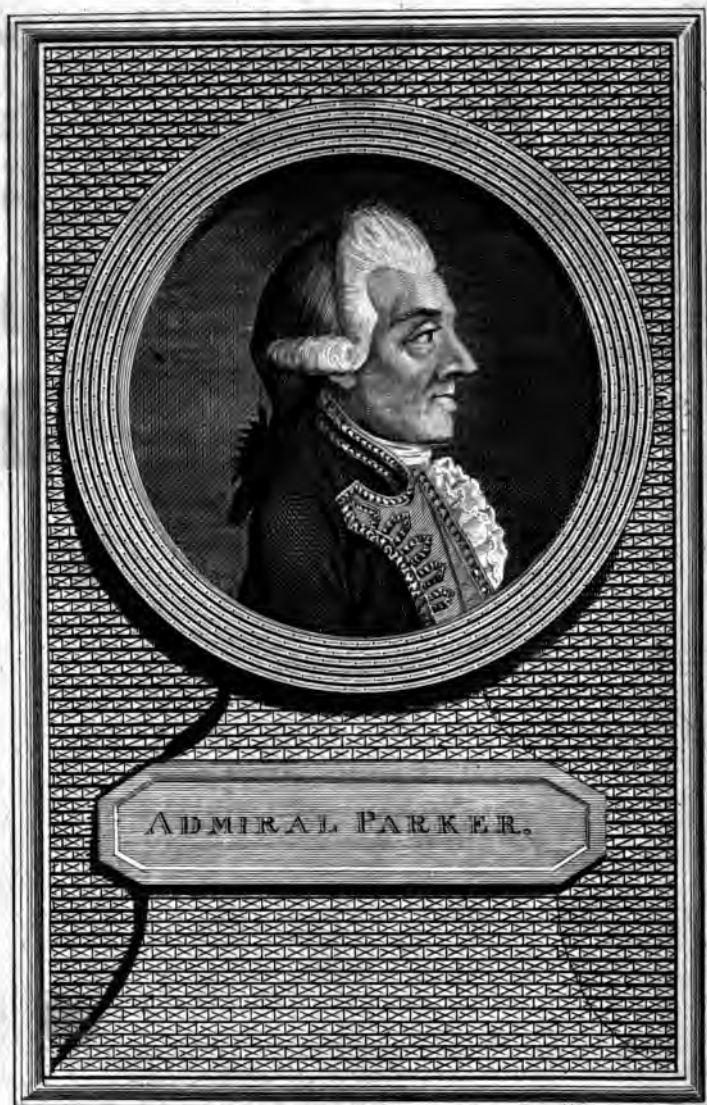
French ships of force, before they durst continue their voyage.

Commodore Johnstone having, with great industry and personal exertion, fully reconnoitred their situation, entered the Bay on the twenty-first of July, and surpris'd them, before they were able to accomplish the destruction of their ships; which they had intended sooner than suffer them to fall into his hands. Four out of the five were taken, and preserved from the flames, through the courage and dexterity of the seamen. They proved very valuable prizes; none being under a thousand tons burden: three came from China, and one from Bengal.

An occurrence of a singular nature happened on this occasion at Saldana. Two eastern princes, detained in captivity at this place through the cruel maxims of policy adopted by the Dutch, escaped from their confinement, and seized the opportunity now offer'd them, of putting themselves under the protection of the British commanders. They were the sovereigns of Ternate and Tidore, two spice-islands in the Indian sea; and had, from motives of jealousy, been deposed, and banished from their own country to this part of the world, where they had been treated with great indignity.

The news of these transactions added greatly to the clamours of the people in Holland who disapproved of an inimical conduct towards Great Britain. The adverse party, however, took occasion from thence to inforce the necessity of using the most strenuous endeavours to prevent any further disasters; and to make head against the preparations that were now carrying on in England, in order to cut off their communication with the south of Europe, and intercept their trade with the Baltic. The deprivation of this last especially, would reduce them to the greatest distress. It would at
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once ruin their marine, as it was from thence only they could be supplied with naval stores; nor would it prove less injurious in a still more essential respect, by stopping up the channel through which the Seven United Provinces were almost wholly furnished with the quantity of corn necessary for the subsistence of their inhabitants.

The critical situation of the Dutch was well understood in England. The weakness of their marine, and the difficulty of putting it on a respectable footing, were well known; but the immense weight of hostile power, against which Great Britain was obliged to bear up on every side, precluded those exertions, of which the utility was apparent, from being carried to a sufficient extent, for the full accomplishment of the design proposed.

It was not without great dint of management, that a squadron was provided for the purpose of watching the motions of the Dutch on their coast. They were employed in equipping a number of their stoutest ships for the protection of a large fleet of merchantmen, bound to the Northern Sea. The command of them was given to Admiral Zoutman, a resolute and experienced seaman. The force he had consisted of eight ships of the line, from seventy-four to fifty-four guns, ten frigates, and some other armed vessels. Most of their frigates were very large, and carried an uncommon weight of metal,

The British squadron was commanded by Admiral Hyde Parker, a veteran officer; of noted intrepidity. He was at this time convoying the homeward bound trade from the Baltic, amounting to upwards of an hundred sail. On the 5th of August he fell in with the Dutch squadron, on the Dogger Bank, accompanying a numerous fleet of merchantmen going to the Baltic. As soon as Admiral Parker had provided for the safety of his convoy,

by detaching most of his frigates for its protection; he bore away to the enemy. His strength consisting of an old eighty gun ship, that carried no heavier metal than a fifty; an old sixty, that had been discharged, but lately refitted for service; two seventy-fours, a sixty-four, and a fifty; to which he was obliged to add a frigate of forty-four guns, in order to supply the inequality of his line of battle in number to that of the enemy.

The action began at eight in the morning, within less than musket-shot distance. It lasted near four hours, with equal bravery on each side. The fire from the English Squadron was kept up with an uncommon spirit, and did dreadful execution; some of the ships discharged above two thousand shot. The Dutch frigates seconded their line with great resolution, by taking such positions as enabled them to rake the British shipping: which, for want of an adequate proportion of frigates, could not assail the enemy in the like manner.

But, notwithstanding this deficiency, the Dutch frigates were, in a short time, silenced and compelled to withdraw. In the mean time, both Squadrons had received so much damage, that about noon they were become equally unmanageable. The British Admiral used his utmost skill to keep the ships in a line, and to continue the action; but found it impracticable. The Dutch were in the same situation. After laying to a considerable time near each other, the Dutch having suffered most, did not think it advisable to renew the engagement; and, in order to save the convoy (of which they had charge, and which was of immense value) they took the resolution to bear away with it to the Texel.

But though the Dutch Squadron effected an escape, it was in so shattered a condition, that could hardly be preserved from sinking. It was with the
utmost

utmost difficulty brought into port by the help of the many frigates that fortunately attended it. One of the largest ships, mounting seventy guns, went to the bottom, in the night after the action; and most of the others were rendered totally unserviceable.

Such was the issue of this celebrated engagement, the first that had happened between the English and the Dutch for upwards of a century. The valour and emulation displayed by both parties was in nowise inferior to that which had been exerted by their respective ancestors, when contending for the empire of the ocean, in the days of Cromwell and Charles the Second.

The slain and wounded on board of the British squadron, amounted to about four hundred and fifty, among whom were several officers of very superior merit; but the same list on board of the Dutch ships, though endeavoured to be concealed, was well known to exceed a thousand.

The victory was indisputably on the side of the British Admiral. He remained with his squadron on the place of action after the enemy had quitted it. The Dutch Admiral was obliged to abandon to their own care the merchantmen under his convoy; and these were compelled to drop the prosecution of their voyage, and make the best of their way to their separate homes.

This was the severest disappointment that could have befallen the Dutch; in this fleet were centered the hopes and resources of the mercantile classes, which had been at a vast expence in fitting it out for its usual destination to the northern parts of Europe. They now saw themselves totally excluded from that principal fund of their commercial opulence, and obliged, to their great mortification, to have recourse to the assistance of France for protection on their own coasts.

The States General of the Seven United Provinces were fully sensible of all these calamities; but they prudently buried them in silence, and adverted only to the necessity of reviving the courage of the public, and preventing any popular despondency. The valour of those officers and men who had fought in the late action was extolled in the warmest terms; honours and rewards were decreed to them in the most ample and generous manner; and nothing was forgotten to impress the world with the highest sense of their merit, and to excite a spirit of emulation throughout the people.

The glory and success of this engagement were duly acknowledged in England: but heavy complaints were made, that a sufficient force had not been assigned to Admiral Parker for the purposes that might have been accomplished on this occasion. Had his squadron been properly reinforced, which it was asserted might have been done, no doubt was entertained, from his known bravery and abilities, that a total destruction, or capture of the Dutch squadron and convoy, would have been the consequence.

On the return of the British squadron to the Nore, the service done to the public by the Admiral, was noticed in the most distinguished manner. The king honoured him with a visit, and treated him with those marks of attention and regard to which he was so eminently intitled.

During the remainder of the year, the ports of Holland were completely blocked up, and their trade intercepted from the most beneficial quarters. The Dutch, who had not for a century experienced any of the distresses arising from a naval war, now felt them to a great extent. The communalty, upon which of course they chiefly fell, was loud and ungovernable in its murmurs; and it was for some time

time imagined, that the hardships under which it laboured, would have produced internal commotions of a dangerous nature. Certain it is, that no little alarm was excited, and that the discontents were so general, that suspicions of that kind did not appear intirely void of foundation.

CHAP. LX.

*The French defeated at Jersey.— Siege of Minorca.—
Naval Operations in the Channel.*

1781.

NEVER had the intrigues of France been so successful against Great Britain as in the present war. She had contrived to kindle an unextinguishable flame in the British colonies : She had persuaded Spain, against the clear interest of that monarchy, to unite with her in asserting their independence : She had involved the Seven United Provinces in a quarrel with their ancient and surest ally : She had drawn all Europe into a confederacy for the destruction of the naval power of this country, and had deprived it of all its allies, and almost all its well-wishers.

In the midst of this storm, Britain seemed, however, to brave its enemies, not only by the greatness of the spirit with which she encountered them, but no less by the prodigious multiplicity of her resources. In the beginning of the year Eighty-one, the maritime strength of all Europe was drawn out against her ; but the list of her fleets and armies afforded them no reason to hope that her power was on the decline. Her internal defence was provided for in such a manner, as precluded all expectations of making the least impression upon this island. She had numerous forces in the East and West Indies, and was making the most vigorous efforts in America. Her navy was on the most formidable footing, consisting of no less than four hundred and thirty vessels, in most excellent condition, and manned with
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the best and bravest seamen in Europe, even by the confession of her very enemies.

The fleets of France, Spain, and Holland did hardly more than equal those of Great Britain in number; but were far inferior to them in goodness of construction. The sailors, those of Holland excepted, were chiefly composed of landsmen, unused to and averse to that element on which they were compelled to serve. France, with all its exertions, did not reckon more than two hundred and sixty-four vessels of all rates; and Spain not upwards of one hundred and twenty-four; Holland counted but sixty.

The residue of European marine in actual commission, among those powers who formed the armed neutrality, amounted to no more than eighty ships of all sizes. Of these, twenty-nine belonged to Russia, thirty to Sweden, and twenty-five to Denmark. Such were the estimates of the naval force of the maritime powers in Europe about the commencement of the year eighty-one. •

France, in the mean time, was meditating how to avail herself of the advantages accruing from the potent confederacy in her favour. She had hitherto been foiled in every enterprize of moment. Saving some inconsiderable successes in the West Indies, her arms had been worsted everywhere. Notwithstanding the parade with which her fleets, in conjunction with those of Spain, had appeared on the British coast, nothing of the least consequence had hitherto been effected. The only attempt she had ventured to make in the Channel, was on the island of Jersey, lying in sight of her own shore; and in that she had completely failed.

The remembrance of this failure, and the disgrace of having manifested to the world her inability to dispossess the English of an isle situated at her very doors, induced her, at the beginning of this year, to repeat an attempt, which Europe testified its utmost surprise,

surprize, that France should ever have discontinued till she had succeeded.

The person pitched upon to conduct this enterprize, was the Baron de Rullecourt, a man of courage; but of a fierce and violent disposition. He had been second in command upon the preceding attempt. The force entrusted to him consisted of two thousand chosen men. With these he embarked in very tempestuous weather, hoping, from this circumstance, that, as an invasion would not be expected, he might be able to surprize the garrison.

Many of his transports being dispersed by the storm, he was obliged to seek shelter with the remainder among some islands in the proximity of Jersey. As soon as the weather grew calmer, he seized the opportunity of a dark night to effect a landing, at a place called Grouville, where he made prisoners a party of militia. From hence he proceeded with the utmost diligence to St. Helier's, the capital of the island, about three miles distant: he came upon it so unexpectedly, that he seized on a body of men that guarded it, together with the commanding officer and the magistrates of the island.

He then drew up a capitulation, the terms of which were, that the island should be forthwith surrendered to France, and the garrison be sent to England. He required instant compliance, threatening, upon refusal, immediate destruction to the town. The Deputy Governor and Magistrates represented to him, that, being in his power, no authority of theirs could any longer be valid, and that the troops would, of course, refuse obedience to them. But the French commander persisting in his requisition and menaces, the capitulation was signed, in order to prevent him from carrying them into execution.

Having gained this point, Baron Rullecourt advanced to Elizabeth Castle, near the town, which he summoned to surrender, in virtue of the capitulation

lation signed by the Deputy-Governor, whom he compelled to accompany him; but the garrison returned him a peremptory denial, and made so vigorous a discharge of their artillery upon him, that he was obliged to withdraw into the town.

The British troops stationed on the island, on being apprized of what was passing, assembled in the mean while from every quarter, under the command of Major Pierſon; who, on being required by the French commander to ſubmit, returned for answer, that, if the French themſelves did not lay down their arms within twenty minutes, he would attack them.

In conſequence of this meſſage, after making a very able diſpoſition of his troops, he charged the enemy with ſo much impetuofity, that, in leſs than half an hour, they were totally routed, and driven from the houſes they had occupied, into the market-place, where they endeavoured to make a ſtand.

Baron Rullecourt, enraged at a reſiſtance which he did not expect, forgot the magnanimity for which the French officers are ſo juſtly renowned, ſo far as to force the captive Governor to attend him to the ſpot of action, declaring, that he ſhould partake of the ſame danger as himſelf: that gentleman was compelled to ſtand by his ſide during the conſiſt in the market-place: but it was quickly terminated; the French were ſoon broken on all ſides; the Baron himſelf mortally wounded, and the next in command obliged to deliver up himſelf and his party priſoners of war, in order to avoid being cut to pieces.

The ſplendour of this ſucceſs was greatly clouded by the death of that gallant young officer, to whole conduct it was chiefly owing. Major Pierſon unhappily fell by one of the laſt diſcharges from the French. He was but in the twenty-ſiſth year of his age. His loſs was deeply lamented, not only by the troops and inhabitants of Jerſey, but by the whole nation.

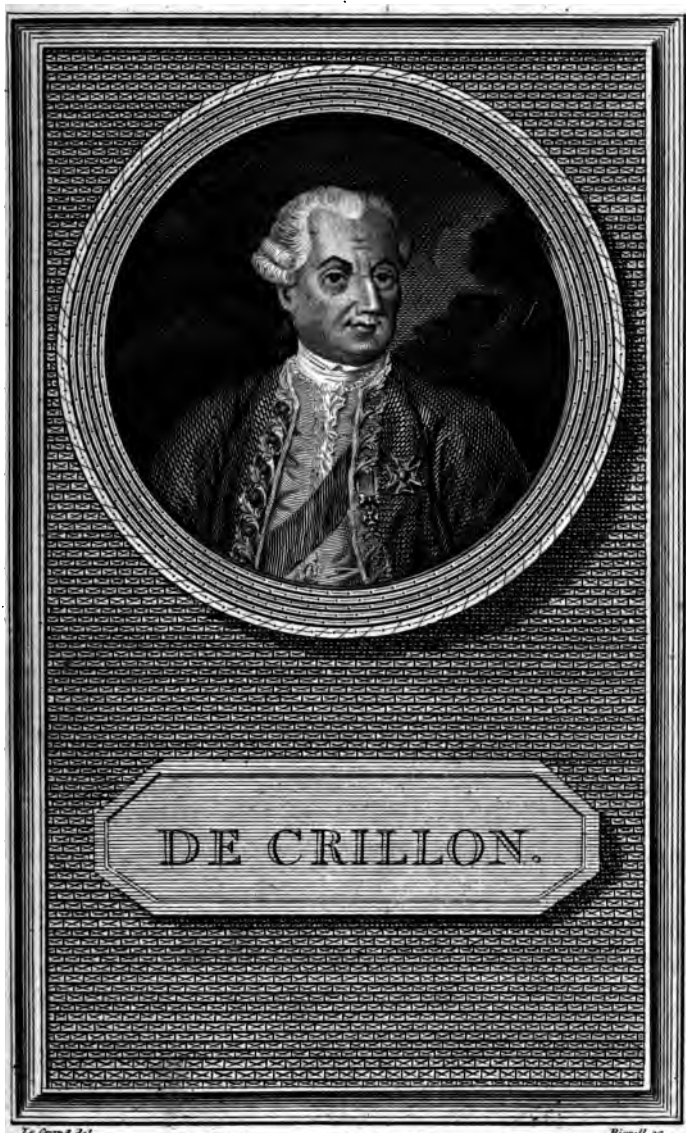
nation. The military abilities which he had displayed on this occasion, justified the highest presumptions of what he might have proved, had he been so fortunate as to survive

Of the whole force that landed upon the island, amounting to upwards of eight hundred men, not one escaped. They were all either killed or taken. What added greatly to the honour of the British troops, they were chiefly new levies, few of whom had ever been in action.

This second defeat of the French at Jersey was no small mortification to their ministry, which had long been earnestly desirous of mastering that and the neighbouring island of Guernsey. It grieved them the more, as it proved that, notwithstanding they both lay in the perpetual view of France, they were objects of defiance, much more than of acquisition, to that monarchy, and might be considered as an invincible argument of the real superiority Great Britain preserved in the Channel, in spite of the transitory parade of the French and Spanish fleets.

Another island, however, offered itself to their consideration at this time, of more importance in itself, and of a more general utility to the furtherance of their designs. This was Minorca, of which the conquest was not only more practicable, on account of its remoteness from assistance, but would also ingratiate them with Spain, and contribute to remove the discontents with which that kingdom had been filled against France, for having drawn it into a contest that had proved hitherto so expensive and ruinous.

The formation of this enterprise took place early in the year; but was for some time retarded by the length of the preparations it required. They were not completed till towards the close of June, when M. de Guichen sailed from Brest, at the head of a
squadron



Le Grand del.

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Burvell sc.

squadron consisting of the most formidable ships in the French navy : they were eighteen in number, five of which carried one hundred and ten guns. They were joined at Cadiz by thirty Spanish ships of the line, and a large number of transports, carrying a body of ten thousand regular troops.

Great Britain had now so many objects to employ her attention, and they were all of such moment, that a sufficient strength could not be collected in time to prevent the junction and intended movements of the French and Spaniards, at the period and distance at which they were made.— They left Cadiz about the end of July, and landed their forces at Minorca the twentieth of August. Here they were shortly after joined by about six thousand French from Toulon. The combined army of both Crowns was under the command of the Duke of Crillon, a French general of great reputation.

It was the fate of Minorca, at this juncture, to be totally unable to make any effectual resistance against so powerful an enemy. The garrison consisted only of four regiments, two of them British, and two Hanoverians ; they were excellent troops, and commanded by two generals of the highest abilities and bravery, General Murray and Sir William Draper, both of whom had, in happier times, remarkably distinguished themselves ; the first in North America, the second in the East Indies.— But the soldiers were sickly, and, from that reason, as well as the smallness of their number, inadequate to the defence that would be necessary against such a multitude of assailants. From these causes, much more than from the vigour and efforts of the besiegers, it was soon foreseen, that the preservation of Minorca would prove a very difficult, if not an impracticable undertaking ; especially when the obstructions

obstructions in the way of all succour were taken into consideration.

While the troops of France and Spain were laying siege to Minorca, by the taking of which they proposed to give a final blow to the British power in the Mediterranean, it was determined, in order to display the strength of the House of Bourbon, that their fleets should at the very same time attack those of Great Britain on her own coasts. To this purpose the combined squadrons, having been reinforced on their way, entered the Channel about the middle of August, to the number of more than seventy sail, about fifty of which were of the line.

Their intent was to intercept the great commercial fleets expected home at this season of the year, and to prevent the sailing of those that were bound to the British settlements abroad. As their multitude enabled them to stretch across the entrance of the Channel, it was resolved, in England, notwithstanding their vast superiority, that the naval force then in readiness, consisting of thirty ships of the line, should proceed immediately to sea, and encounter all dangers, for the protection of the home-bound fleets.

Admiral Darby, who commanded the British fleet, prepared accordingly for the execution of his orders; and the utmost alacrity and determination to second him, was manifested by his officers and men; but he was detained by contrary winds in Torbay till the middle of September; during which time the enemy remained in possession of the sea adjacent to the West of England and the South of Ireland; and occasioned no little alarm for the security of the trade returning from Jamaica and the Leeward Islands.

The wind still confining the British fleet in Torbay, the French and Spanish admirals, on information of its inferiority, debated about the propriety
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of attacking it in that position. Don Vincent Doz, one of the Spanish commanders, insisted with great strenuousness on the disgrace that would attend the neglect of such an opportunity of attacking the English, with so superior a strength as that which could now be brought to act against them.—He offered to be foremost in the attempt.

The proposal of this spirited officer was highly applauded by the chief commander of the French, M. de Guichen. He looked upon the present occasion as the most auspicious that could be found. The principal part of the British navy was now blocked up in a bay, from whence there was no outlet, and where, if defeated, every ship must be taken or destroyed. It was highly probable, considering the vast superiority of the combined fleets, that of Great Britain would be worsted. Such an event would at once terminate the war, to the utmost honour and advantage of the House of Bourbon and its allies. But were they, on the contrary, to decline an engagement, all Europe would brand them with timidity, and interpret their conduct as a tacit acknowledgment of the superior skill and courage of the English.

These arguments were strongly opposed, on the other hand, by M. de Beauffet, the second in command to M. de Guichen. He contended that the situation of the British fleet would enable it to fight them at their great disadvantage: they could not attack it in a body, but must form their line a-head, and fall down singly upon the enemy.—This would expose every ship to the collected fire of the whole British fleet, lying fast at anchor, and drawn up in such a manner as to point all its guns at any object within its reach. He touched also on the bad condition of the combined fleets, the weak state of most of the ships, the Spanish especially,

cially, the number of sick, and several other disadvantages.

The reasons he laid before the French and Spanish commanding officers appeared so well-founded, that it was determined to abandon the design of attacking the British fleet in Torbay, and to turn their attention to the easier task of way-laying that which was coming from the West Indies. As it consisted of merchantmen, the taking of it would be attended with facility; and the loss to England would prove immense.

With these intentions the combined fleets bore away from the Channel, and stationed themselves in the track through which the West India trade was expected; but the weather became shortly so tempestuous, that they were obliged to relinquish this design, and make the best of their way to their respective ports.

In this manner ended their summer cruize in the British seas this year, as it had done the preceding. Notwithstanding the motives they alledged for this retreat, the majority of people in Europe attributed it to their averfeness to risk a decisive engagement with the British fleet. The opinion became general, that either their ships were defectively constructed, or ill found in proper requisites, if not both; and that they were, at the same time, manned with people in whom their commanders durst nor place much confidence.

In the mean time, the British mercantile fleets arrived safe from every quarter, to the great mortification of both France and Spain. As their finances began to totter more than ever, they had exerted themselves to cut off those resources for the prosecution of the war, arising through the prodigious importations of wealth from the transmarine possessions of Great Britain. It was not, therefore, without deep-felt concern, the French ministry beheld
its

its efforts to this essential purpose so completely, and so reiteratedly frustrated by an enemy, whose humiliation they were conscious would never be accomplished by any other means.

In order to balance the failure of this design, it was resolved to give the fullest support to those that were prosecuting elsewhere. Large reinforcements of troops, and great quantities of provisions, naval and military stores, were with all diligence prepared for the various parts of the world where the war was waging. The convoy was so numerous, and of such value and importance, that M. de Guichen was commissioned to accompany it till out of danger of being intercepted, with twenty of the largest ships of the line that could be provided.—Five of them mounted one hundred and ten guns.

These preparations did not however escape the vigilance of the British ministry. A strong squadron was dispatched under Admiral Kempenfelt to cut off this convoy, of which the arrival at the different places of its destination, would have proved highly injurious to the British interest in those parts. He fell in with it on the twelfth of December, eighty one. Happily for him, the transports had been parted from the men of war by a violent storm. This enabled him to capture above twenty of them: the want of frigates prevented the taking of many more.

Most of the remaining part of the convoy was in consequence dispersed, and obliged to put back.—But Admiral Kempenfelt, on reconnoitring the force of the enemy, found it so superior to his own, that it would have been the height of imprudence to have ventured an engagement. As he had but twelve ships of the line, he declined the contest, and withdrew into port.

The value of the prizes he had taken was very considerable: they were laden with all kind of articles.

ticles requisite for land and sea-service, and with all manner of provisions and necessaries. Near two thousand soldiers and sailors were made prisoners.

But notwithstanding the greatness of the disappointment to France by the loss of so material a proportion of this convoy, the facility with which, as it was asserted, the whole might have been captured, and the heavy blow that would thereby have been given to the enemy, revived the clamours that had been raised on occasion of the fight between Admiral Parker and the Dutch. The same neglect, it was complained, had again prevented the completest success from being obtained. Had a sufficient strength been employed, a victory of the most decisive consequence might have been gained; and instead of part of the convoy, the whole would probably have been taken, together with the fleet by which it was accompanied.

C H A P. LXI.

Military Operations in Carolina, under Lord Rawdon.

1781.

DURING these transactions in the various parts of the world that were become the scenes of this extensive war, it was drawing to a crisis in that country where it first broke out, and had hitherto been carried on with so much obstinacy, and yet with so little tendency to a decision.

The obligation under which Lord Cornwallis found himself to retire to Wilmington, after the victory he had obtained at Guildford over General Greene, was an alarming evidence of the insurmountable difficulties of his situation. It emboldened the American General to direct his operations to those parts of South Carolina of which the British troops had taken possession; not doubting but he should be able, by harrassing them, and cutting off their supplies and communication with their principal posts, to compel them to abandon those they occupied in the upper countries, and to withdraw for safety to their garrisons on the sea-coast.

Lord Cornwallis, on setting out in quest of the Americans, previous to the action at Guildford, had left Lord Rawdon at the head of the British forces in the interior part of South Carolina. On the retreat of the British army to Wilmington, General Greene being reinforced, and having refreshed his troops, and collected the people that had been dispersed in that engagement, resolved to march towards Camden, where Lord Rawdon was

then posted. Another body of Americans advanced from another quarter, to make a diversion, and induce him to divide his force.

But it was too small to suffer a division. He thought it most prudent to collect into one body the whole of it, and to make a stand on the spot he occupied against General Greene, whatever his strength might be. His situation was, however, extremely precarious. His provisions were so much reduced, that he was compelled to decline the assistance of a body of Loyalists, that offered their services on this occasion, from absolute inability to maintain them.

On the arrival of General Greene, he was further obliged to contract his posts, and to keep on the defensive. The detachments he had recalled could not join him, a strong body of Americans having taken possession of the passes that led to Camden, and a powerful addition being daily expected to the American army.

In this dangerous situation, Lord Rawdon took the resolution to attack the American General before his reinforcements were arrived. The latter, confiding in his superiority, had already taken the like determination, and had detached a part of his force to escort a train of artillery to his camp.

Lord Rawdon being apprized of this movement, seized that opportunity to assail him. His whole strength amounted to no more than a thousand men. The Americans were encamped at two miles distance, on the brow of a rocky steep, known by the name of Hobkirk Hill: they were guarded on the left by a deep swamp: it was on this side the attack was intended, as it was imagined they would be less on their guard, from the difficulty of approaching them.

At ten in the morning of the twenty-fifth of April, the British troops marched to the enemy round

round this swamp undiscovered, and entered a wood bordering upon the enemy's left wing. From hence they rushed upon it with so much suddenness and impetuosity, that it was instantly thrown into disorder, and driven to the main body. But the great superiority of number enabled the Americans to rally, and to make a very resolute stand; their artillery arriving at this moment, did also great execution; and the fight continued doubtful during some time.

The front of the Americans proving very inconvenient, from its extent, Lord Rawdon, in order to prevent them from surrounding him, was obliged to bring all his troops into one line. Notwithstanding its thinness, they charged the enemy with such fury, that they were at length broken and put to flight. They were not pursued, however, farther than three miles, as Lord Rawdon had but a small body of horse; and his infantry was too much fatigued to continue the pursuit with safety against such very superior numbers.

The Americans withdrew beyond a creek twelve miles distant from the field of battle. Here they posted themselves on a strong ground, in apprehension of a second attack. Their loss was very considerable, when the small number that engaged them is considered. It amounted, in killed and taken, to no less than six hundred; a proportion that exceeded half the victorious army.

The loss on the side of the British troops was about two hundred and fifty, slain and wounded: but the impossibility of supplying the place of those that fell, or were disabled, rendered it very heavy. Lord Rawdon had been obliged, in order to encounter the enemy, to arm the very drummers, and all the attendants on the army. He had now hardly eight hundred men left, while the enemy was hourly receiving additional strength.

This victory, though so complete in itself, was of no real service to the British cause. Like that of Guildford, it proved the courage and abilities of the victors, but produced no benefits to them. It seemed, on the contrary, to have accelerated the design that had been some time in agitation in those parts of Carolina that were awed into submission by the British arms: they all at once shook off their obedience, and openly declared against Britain.

Lord Rawdon now saw himself invested on every side. General Greene, with an increasing force, was posted in his front, and strong parties of the enemy lay in his rear. In these circumstances, he judged it more adviseable to wait the relief that was promised him, than to expose his small army, if it could deserve such a name, to the hazard of being put between two fires, by quitting the post he occupied.

The assistance he expected consisted of little more than five hundred men, headed by Colonel Watson. This officer, in order to join Lord Rawdon, was obliged to undertake a long and laborious march through a country full of rivers and swamps; which he found the greatest difficulty to cross. After coasting the great river Santee almost to its mouth, he passed it, and resumed his march towards its confluence with the Congaree, where he crossed it once more, before he could effect his junction with Lord Rawdon. The hardships and obstructions surmounted in this march, did singular honour to Colonel Watson.

The arrival of this reinforcement enabled Lord Rawdon to undertake the retreat that was now become necessary from Camden, where he was posted in the midst of enemies, without the least expectation of receiving any further succours. Before he proceeded on this design, he resolved, however, to employ the strength he now possessed in a
fresh

fresh attempt upon General Greene. But this wary officer, on receiving notice of Colonel Watson's arrival, withdrew from his post, well conjecturing that it would be attacked; and took another of so much strength, that it was deemed, upon inspection, too difficult to be attempted.

On the ninth of May, eighty-one, the British troops left Cambden, bringing off with them their provisions, and the stores of most value, and destroying the residue. They proceeded leisurely on their march, in order to give time to such of their adherents as chose to accompany them, to carry off their effects and moveable property. The enemy endeavoured to harraßs them, but were quickly repulsed.

The intention of Lord Rawdon was, while making this retreat, to relieve such posts as were attacked by the enemy. The principal of them was called Motte's House, which was closely besieged by the Americans, and vigorously defended by Captain Macpherson. Its situation rendered it of much importance; but he had the mortification to find that it had fallen into the hands of the enemy, with several others in the neighbourhood.

The troops under Lord Rawdon crossed the Santee at Nelson's Ferry, on the thirteenth of May. In this position he covered the country adjacent to Charlestown, and could wait in safety for reinforcements. Here he was joined by a considerable detachment, which induced him to make a movement forward into the upper country, where the enemy was now expected to renew his operations; but he was soon obliged to suspend his design for the present, and to retire nearer to Charlestown, upon receiving intelligence that General Greene was coming down upon him in great force.

The defection throughout this province was now become so general, that little or no confidence could

be placed any where. The capital was full of disaffected, who seemed evidently to wait with impatience for an opportunity of throwing off the mask, and openly joining with the enemy.

While the British affairs were in this critical posture, General Greene resolved to attack the post at Ninety-six. Its distance, and the difficulty of relieving it were such, that the Americans entertained no doubt of mastering it, was no other method used but to cut off its supplies.

Lord Rawdon concurring in the same idea, and convinced of the present impracticability of succouring that place, sent word to the commanding officer to abandon it, and to retire to Augusta, which was the nearest post he could with safety remove to, while the enemy occupied all the interjacent country between Ninety-six and the British army.

But the Americans guarded all the roads and passes with so much vigilance, and the inhabitants were so inveterate in their disaffection, that no messages could reach that garrison. It was however under the command of a very brave and able officer, Colonel Cruger; and the defence was so resolute, that the enemy soon began to apprehend that want of provisions alone would compel it to surrender.

In the mean time a body of troops arrived at Charlestown from Ireland, consisting of three complete regiments. The dangerous situation of the province was a sufficient motive with Lord Cornwallis, to whose orders they were assigned, to put them under the command of Lord Rawdon.

He now set forward from Charlestown, at the head of about three thousand men, intending to direct his motions in such wise, as to force the American General to an engagement. His march, on this account, was circuitous, in order to prevent the enemy's retreat, and at the same time to oppose any reinforcements that might be on their way
from

from North Carolina and Virginia, the two provinces on the assistance of which the American General principally relied.

Upon information of Lord Rawdon's approach, General Greene took immediately the determination to hazard an assault upon the fort of Ninety-six. No other means were left to carry it, as the daily expectation of the British army's arrival afforded no more time for the continuation of a regular siege.

The assault was made accordingly on the nineteenth of June, before the break of day. It was conducted with great intrepidity on the part of the Americans; but they met with so undaunted a resistance, that after a long and severe conflict, they were entirely repulsed, with a considerable loss.—Some of their best officers and soldiers fell in this attempt.

Lord Rawdon arriving the next day, found the American army had left its encampment, and retired to a strong ground beyond Bush River, at sixteen miles distance. The great fatigue undergone by the British troops in the long and expeditious march they had taken to come up with the enemy, did not prevent them from setting out in pursuit of him that very evening. For the greater celerity, they threw off every incumbrance: but notwithstanding their speed, the Americans had previously gained so much way, that it was impossible to overtake them; so rapid and continual was their flight.

Notwithstanding the retreat of the enemy, the hostile disposition of the country in the neighbourhood of Ninety-six, rendered it necessary to relinquish that post. The few Loyalists in those parts were taken under the protection of the army, as at Camden, and removed with it to the country more adjacent to Charlestown; where they were promised lands and settlements in the districts vacated by the
enemy

enemy, equivalent in value to those they were now obliged to abandon.

While these arrangements were taking place, Lord Rawdon selected about one thousand of his best troops, with which he determined to go immediately in quest of the flying enemy. Another body of troops was directed to meet him at an appointed time and place; but while it was on its march for this purpose, the alarm that was spread of the speedy arrival of a French squadron, with a number of troops, raised so much apprehension at Charlestown, that it was recalled for the protection of this capital.

Lord Rawdon, who had been informed of the march of this detachment to his assistance by the officer who commanded it, was advancing with the utmost speed to the place of appointment. Advice was sent him of its recall; but the letter that was addressed to him to this purport, was intercepted by General Greene; who being apprized at the same time of the small force with which he had moved from Ninety-six; resolved to way-lay and surround him, before he could be warned of his danger.

Happily for Lord Rawdon, the recall of the detachment was countermanded; and his motions were so expeditious, that he reached the spot where he expected to meet it, two days before it was to arrive. This circumstance enabled him to discover that the enemy was approaching in great force. Part of his cavalry, however, venturing out too far, in expectation of meeting the promised succour, were circumvented by a large body of American horse and foot, and made prisoners.

This was the heavier a loss to Lord Rawdon, as it consisted of the major part of his cavalry, upon which he chiefly depended for the procuring of information

formation in a country, where, from the malevolent disposition of the people, he could trust to nothing but ocular evidence. He now found himself totally disappointed in the object of his expedition. But as it was indispensibly requisite to join the troops that were coming to his assistance, in order to prevent them from being overpowered by the enemy, he proceeded with all diligence towards Orangeburgh, where he conjectured they were now arrived.

But in his march to this place he had various impediments to conquer.—Colonel Lee, an American officer of great activity, lay on the opposite banks of Congaree Creek, with a strong corps of cavalry and marksmen. The fords were difficult, and purposely embarrassed with fallen trees; and the places of landing on the other side were steep and rocky. The enemy had broken down the bridge, and kept a guard wherever there was a possibility of crossing.

The only method left to effect one was by surprise. To this intent, in the middle of the day, while the intenseness of the heat seemed to suspend all military operations, the British troops suddenly advanced to the river. A chosen party waded over with great quickness, and attacked the enemy with so much courage and impetuosity, that they were totally dispersed, and a passage cleared for those that followed.

Arriving at Orangeburgh, Lord Rawdon was joined, according to his expectation, by a complete regiment, under the command of Colonel Stuart. General Greene, on the other hand, hoping to overtake him before this junction was effected, had used the utmost speed in following him over the Congaree Creek; and was now within a few miles, at the head of a very considerable force; com-

composed of strong reinforcements of American regulars, and a large body of horse.

But having examined the situation and countenance of the British troops, he soon altered the intention he had formed of attacking them; and, notwithstanding his superiority, did not think it advisable to risk an engagement with so well disciplined a force as he now saw collected to face him: he decamped in the night of the tenth of July, and repassed the Congaree with so much precipitation, that he was quite out of reach when Lord Rawdon was made acquainted with the route he had taken.

The excessive heat of the subsequent weather put an end to the campaign in Carolina for the present. Satisfied with having effected a retreat, General Greene, after taking a secure position on the high-lands east of the river Santee, disposed of the remainder of his forces in such a manner, as to form a chain of communication between them, to the intent of checking any attempt on the part of the British troops. These, notwithstanding their successes in the field, were circumscribed within much narrower limits than at the commencement of the campaign. Augusta, in Georgia, had been retaken, and most of that province recovered by the Americans: they were also masters of the Upper Carolinas, while the former were confined to the districts bordering on the sea.

Such was the issue of the victories and surprising exertions made by the British commanders, and their officers and people, during the severe course of service they underwent this memorable year in the Southern Colonies. The hardships they endured were such as experience only could have proved that human nature was capable of supporting. The extremes of fatigue, hunger, and thirst,

thirst, were, through continual repetitions, become habitual to them; and they were in a manner familiarised with all the wants and miseries incident to hostilities of the most destructive and ruinous nature. In many of their expeditions, their very subsistence was casual, and chiefly depended upon the accidental discovery of scanty supplies of food. It was only by dint of searching, they were able to find them among a people, who, from their inveteracy, industriously sought to deprive them of every means of sustenance; and carefully concealed all the provisions they had to spare, for the use of their adversaries.

But it was precisely from the very greatness of these exertions, that thinking people drew the most alarming presages with regard to the cause for which they were displayed. Their inutility, or rather their fatal consequences, became daily more visible, in the loss of those numbers of brave men who fell in the field, or became the victims of an inauspicious climate, where as many perished through its baneful influence as by the chances of war.

It was equally a matter of astonishment and mortification to ministry, that such spirit and sufferings should produce no effect in forwarding the main object in contemplation. The enemy still continued unsubdued and undismayed. His perseverance was equal to every trial, and his resolution seemed to increase in proportion to the endeavours that were made to overcome it. Losses and defeats, instead of despondency and dread, excited his resentment and obstinacy: every advantage obtained over him demanded fresh successes to support and confirm it; and occasioned, on his part, additional efforts to frustrate it.

A contest of such a description could not fail being attended with uncommon and unforeseen difficulties.

difficulties. The character of the people, and the nature of the country, seemed equally stubborn and unconquerable, and calculated to contribute reciprocally to their joint defence. Against such an enemy, the valour and resources that would elsewhere have proved irresistible, were necessarily precarious; as their effects here depended upon causes of a peculiar and local cast, and operating in a manner, which, as it was unusual and new, could hardly at so vast a distance, have been either foreseen or prevented.

C H A P. LXII.

Campaign of Lord Cornwallis in Virginia.—Engagement between the British and French fleets off that Coast.—Capitulation at York Town.

1781.

DURING the operations of the forces under Lord Rawdon in Carolina, Lord Cornwallis had for a time been compelled to remain at Wilmington, through the want of due requisites to put in motion the troops under his command. They were destitute of almost every necessary; yet, notwithstanding their wretched condition, and the remembrance of what they lately suffered, they cheerfully acquiesced in the resolution he took of setting out for Virginia; though they well knew the impediments in their way, the length of the march, and the numberless hardships with which they must contend.

After having maturely reflected on the situation of affairs, Lord Cornwallis found this determination the most advisable one he could now resolve upon. His force was at this time so reduced, that he had not fifteen hundred men complete. He could not, with such a handful, venture back across the Carolinas to the assistance of Lord Rawdon, between whom and him the Americans were posted in great force, and occupied all the passes and fords of the many rivers throughout that vast tract of country. The very length of the journey, and the perpetual conflicts he must go through, would at the same time so harass and consume the small force he had, that it would be wasted to nothing, before he could join Lord Rawdon, were this practicable in the face of so superior an enemy, and so many obstructions.

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For these reasons, he formed the resolution of penetrating through North Carolina and the South of Virginia, to the British army that was at this time employed in the reduction of that province, under the Generals Philips and Arnold; whose successes in those parts had been very great, and seemed to open a prospect of still greater.

As they were accompanied by a multitude of vessels, they were enabled to navigate through a vast extent of inland country, by means of the great rivers with which that province is every where intersected. At Petersburg, on the river Appomatox, they destroyed a prodigious quantity of tobacco, that had been collected at that town for exportation: it amounted to no less than four thousand hogsheads. The damage was immense, not only to the province but to the whole confederacy, from the deficiency that would be occasioned to the public revenue, through the loss of so considerable a remittance.

But this was only a part of the vast losses the Americans sustained in this quarter. The destruction of shipping, and naval stores of every denomination; of dock-yards and other constructions of that kind; of public building, stores, and warehouses; and of provisions of every sort, was at that time irreparable, and proved a most serious and essential detriment to the whole continent.

At a place called Osborn, General Arnold came up with some ships of force in the service of Congress. After some resistance, they were either burnt or taken, with several others richly laden. From this place the troops proceeded to Manchester, a small town in the neighbourhood, where they set some considerable magazines on fire: they did the same at Warwick, a flourishing settlement, containing a number of warehouses, with variety of merchandize; all which were seized or consumed.

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In order to oppose the progress of the British troops, General Washington detached the Marquis de la Fayette with what forces he could spare : but they were not sufficient to impede the operations of General Arnold ; and were constrained to remain spectators of his proceedings, without being able to interrupt them. The damage done to the Americans in these various expeditions, was prodigious. The amount alone of tobacco, taken or destroyed, was computed at little less than ten thousand hogshheads.

These heavy and alarming losses obliged the Americans to make large detachments for the support of the Marquis ; who exerted himself with great vigour and ability to defeat the designs of the British commanders. He posted himself at Richmond, on the side of James River opposite to that which was occupied by General Arnold ; from whence he kept a vigilant eye on all his motions.

In the mean time Lord Cornwallis was on his march from Wilmington. He had in many places a wild and difficult country to make his way through, and no other resources to depend on than the resolution of his people and his own activity. In the midst of a variety of obstructions and trials of their patience and courage, they arrived at length in Virginia, and formed the long desired junction with the British forces in those parts.

The Marquis de la Fayette made his utmost efforts to prevent this junction. To this intent he advanced towards Petersburg, in hopes of seizing that post, which, from its situation, he hoped, would have enabled him to make good its possession against a greater strength, till he was reinforced. But General Philips, though in a declining state of health, used so much activity on discovering his intent, that he entirely frustrated it ; and, by a timely and rapid motion, took possession of Petersburg before the

enemy could carry his design into execution. This was the last exploit of that brave and excellent officer, who died a few days after.

General Arnold, who succeeded him in the chief command, made all the arrangements that were necessary to facilitate the arrival of Lord Cornwallis. As he brought with him a chosen, though small body of men, no efforts were neglected to intercept them on their march; and it was no inconsiderable disappointment to the enemy, that they had not been able to succeed in this measure.

Lord Cornwallis was now at the head of an army which, though not numerous, was extremely formidable, from the uncommon expertness and bravery of the officers and soldiers of which it consisted. He began his operations by crossing James River, and advancing towards the upper country. Colonels Tarlton and Simcoe were detached from the main body, in order to harass the enemy. They executed their commission with great spirit and success, destroying vast quantities of arms, ammunition, and provisions, and wounding the enemy in several skirmishes,

He then turned towards the sea-coast, and took possession of Williamsburgh; having in this expedition done immense damage to the enemy. Some thousand hogheads of tobacco were seized or destroyed; and a great number of brass ordnance, both guns and mortar-pieces, brought away.

The American forces, under the Marquis de la Fayette, being reinforced by a strong detachment, commanded by General Wayne, Baron Steuben, and other able officers, drew nearer to the British army, which was now encamped near Jamestown. On the sixth of July they attacked its out-posts with great vigour; and, conceiving the main body itself to be at a distance, they approached

proached in considerable force, in hope of completely cutting off that part which was near them.

But Lord Cornwallis, after waiting till they had brought up all the force they intended, turned suddenly upon them with the remainder of his army, disposed in two lines. The left of the enemy, composed chiefly of militia, was quickly routed, and put to flight : but their right, consisting of the Pennsylvanian line, and other Continental regulars, made a very brave defence. They were, however, compelled to retire, with the loss of their artillery, through the superior conduct and bravery of Colonel Dundas, and those troops under his command, that formed the British left. A great number of dead and wounded were left on the field ; but as it was late in the afternoon when the action commenced, the evening was too far gone when it was over, to pursue them with any success. The British officers made no doubt, that unless the darkness had interposed in their favour, the whole of the American forces must unavoidably have surrendered, or been destroyed.

The principal object of contemplation in the expedition now carrying on in Virginia, was to fix upon a place of strength and security for the British troops and shipping, from whence to command that extensive province, and cut off its commercial communication through the Chesapeak. By this measure its trade and resources, and, of consequence, the principal support of the war on the part of America, would in a considerable degree be taken away.

Various opinions were held concerning the properest stations ; which rendered the choice of one a matter of no small difficulty and hesitation. About the commencement of hostilities in Virginia, the harbour of Portsmouth, in the southern part of that colony, had been tried, and found highly service-

able at that time for the purpose of affording a convenient post both for naval and military operations. It commanded the Chesapeake, from whence incursions might be made into every district of the province, up the many navigable rivers that fell into that spacious bay.

There were objections, however, to this post : it was unwholesomely situated, would require a large force for its protection, and did not admit of ships of the line; without which, in the present circumstances, it would be totally insecure. In the default of Portsmouth, Point Comfort was next proposed, in the vicinity of Hampton Road, where large vessels would lie in safety, under such works as might be erected to that intent; but upon examination, that spot appeared too much exposed to the fire of a fleet.—After much deliberation, York Town, seated on the river of that name, was at last pitched upon, as the least inconvenient post. Gloucester Point lay on the northern side, at little more than a mile distance; the river running between them, being equally commanded by both, and of sufficient depth for large vessels.

But this position, though favourable in many respects, required no inconsiderable force to be properly maintained. That which was now under Lord Cornwallis, though consisting of no more than about seven thousand men, was no small proportion of what remained at this time in America.—Sir Henry Clinton, commander in chief of the British forces on the continent, was at this time in so dangerous a situation at New York, that instead of being able to send any further supplies of troops to Lord Cornwallis, he was under the necessity of requesting him to spare a body of three thousand men for the defence of that city, which he expected would be shortly attacked by the combined strength of France and America.

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This request could not, however, be complied with in the present juncture ; as it appeared impracticable to Lord Cornwallis to retain his post, were he divested of so great a part of his strength. He exerted himself to fortify and render it tenable ; not doubting but the utmost efforts would be made to dislodge him.

In the mean time, the ruling men among the Americans were anxiously employed in devising the means to frustrate the vigorous proceedings that were intended against them. Their internal affairs were at this period in extreme disorder, as appeared from a variety of intercepted letters, written by some of the principal personages among them ; and which described their condition to be replete with all manner of difficulties. This knowledge of their distressful circumstances, was no less disparaging and hurtful to them, than encouraging to the British commanders in America, and to the ministry at home. Great hopes were hence entertained, that the time was approaching when these unceasing hardships would create such discontent and impatience, as might induce the Americans to put an end to their calamities, by listening to the favourable terms so repeatedly offered them.

But this discovery of their circumstances, contrary to all expectation, produced a quite opposite effect. Relying on the assistance of France, and of the multitude of allies that supported its cause in all parts of the world, Congress was not in the least dubious of the final issue of the war ; and looked upon the present inconveniences as no more than temporary evils, which could not fail of a quick termination, as soon as those naval succours arrived which had been solemnly promised them before the expiration of summer.

That period was now approaching ; and the chief study of General Washington was how to co-operate

rate most effectually with their French allies.— That method which seemed to be most likely to succeed, was by making such a diversion in their favour, as would keep the strength and attention of the British commanders so much occupied elsewhere, as to give the former a complete opportunity of executing their designs without any effectual opposition.

In order to accomplish this end the more readily, a project was formed to circumvent and deceive the British commanders into a persuasion that the intent of France and America was to finish the war by a decisive blow at New York; the capture of which, together with the force it contained, must infallibly put an end to hostilities on that continent.

To carry on the deception, letters were framed by the American General, setting forth his total despair of expelling the English, but by attacking them successfully at New York; and insisting peremptorily on the indispensable necessity of both French and Americans combining all their forces for that purpose, as the sole means of obtaining the end for which they had so long been contending.

He represented to the American commanders employed in different parts, but especially to those in Virginia, his absolute inability to come to their assistance; and that the deliverance of that province from its British invaders, would entirely depend on the plan he had formed against New York, in conjunction with the French commanding officers, who concurred unanimously in approving it, were hearty in their promises to second it with all their power, and extremely sanguine in their expectations of its success.

To impress these ideas the more strongly, letters of the same tenour were addressed from the French commanders themselves to the Resident of France at Philadelphia. These letters were delivered to messen-

messengers, who were purposely thrown into the way of being intercepted. They fell accordingly into the hands of those for whom they were designed, and produced their desired effect.

That the movements of the enemy might correspond with the intentions expressed in these letters, Count de Rochambeau moved from Rhode Island with the French troops under his command, in the beginning of July, and formed a junction with General Washington on the Connecticut side of the North River. From hence they both advanced to the neighbourhood of New York. They continued in this position near six weeks; feigning, by their motions, to be preparing for an attack upon this city, reconnoitring its environs, and inspecting all the works within the reach of their cannon.

The speedy arrival of Count de Grasse, at the head of a powerful fleet, was at the same time confidently reported; and a body of French troops took post on the shore facing Sandy Hook, with an apparent intent of co-operating with him.—Quarters were in consequence prepared for the rest of their countrymen, who were, it was said, to act chiefly on that side. General Washington, on the other hand, posted himself opposite to Staten Island.

Matters being at length completely arranged for the prosecution of the main design, the French and American Generals suddenly broke up their camps, and took their route through the Jerseys.—They crossed the Delaware at Trenton, and passed through Philadelphia on the third and fourth of September, on their way to the head of the river Elk, where their embarkation for Virginia was to take place.

In the mean time, a resolution was taken at New York, to make such a diversion on the side of Connecticut, as should induce General Washington to turn his attention to that province, and defeat the

scheme he seemed meditating against New York. The conduct of this expedition was committed to General Arnold. He embarked with a strong detachment, and landed on the sixth of September at New London, a place of great trade in that colony, situated on a river to which the name of Thames had been given by the original settlers in former days.

General Arnold made his landing on that side of the river where Fort Trumbull stood, which was mastered without much difficulty. But Colonel Eyre, who landed on the other side of the river, met with a very resolute opposition. He had been informed that Fort Griswold, the attacking of which fell to his lot, was not in a proper state of defence, and wanted a sufficient garrison : but he found it, on the contrary, well fortified and manned.—On viewing it more fully, General Arnold thought it too strong to be carried by a sudden assault, and therefore countermanded the orders he had before given to that intent. But the attack was already begun ;—the troops advancing under a heavy fire, assaulted it on three sides. They first made a lodgement in the ditch, and next on the fraizing ; from whence, after silencing a heavy gun, that enfiladed them, they rushed with their bayonets fixed through the embrasures, which were defended with the most desperate obstinacy by the enemy, who had armed themselves with long spears for that purpose.

The honour obtained by this remarkable action was very great, but it was dearly purchased. Two officers, and forty-six soldiers were killed on the spot, and eight officers, with one hundred and thirty-five soldiers wounded. Among those who fell was Major Montgomery, who was pierced with a spear as he entered the fort. On the side of the garrison, their commander, Colonel Ladyard, was slain, with eighty-five of his men ; sixty were wounded,

wounded, most of them mortally, and about seventy were made prisoners.

Immense quantities of merchandise were destroyed upon this occasion, with a great number of shipping, and military and naval stores. Unhappily for the town, a large quantity of gunpowder had been deposited in the storehouses, which being set on fire, the flames communicated to the contiguous buildings, and a great part of the town was reduced to ashes.

But this incursion into Connecticut did not appear of sufficient importance to the American commanders to occasion any alteration in their plan.— It was by this time in a considerable state of forwardness. The combined forces, under General Washington and the Count de Rochambeau, had now reached the head of the Elk, where a part of them embarked, and the residue, for want of water-carriage, proceeded by land towards the place of destination.

In the mean time, a large French fleet was on its way from the West Indies, under Count de Grasse: it arrived off the Chesapeake on the twenty-eighth of August. A British squadron, from the same quarter, had arrived there three days before, commanded by Admiral Sir Samuel Hood. Intelligence had been previously sent to New York from Admiral Rodney, of his intentions to dispatch this squadron to reinforce that under Admiral Graves: but this latter, for want of this information, which was delayed by contrary winds, had been cruising off Boston, from whence he was driven by bad weather to New York, where some of his ships were repairing the damages they had received.

It was fortunate for Sir Samuel Hood that, not meeting with Admiral Graves at the Chesapeake, he had proceeded to Sandy Hook. He had no more
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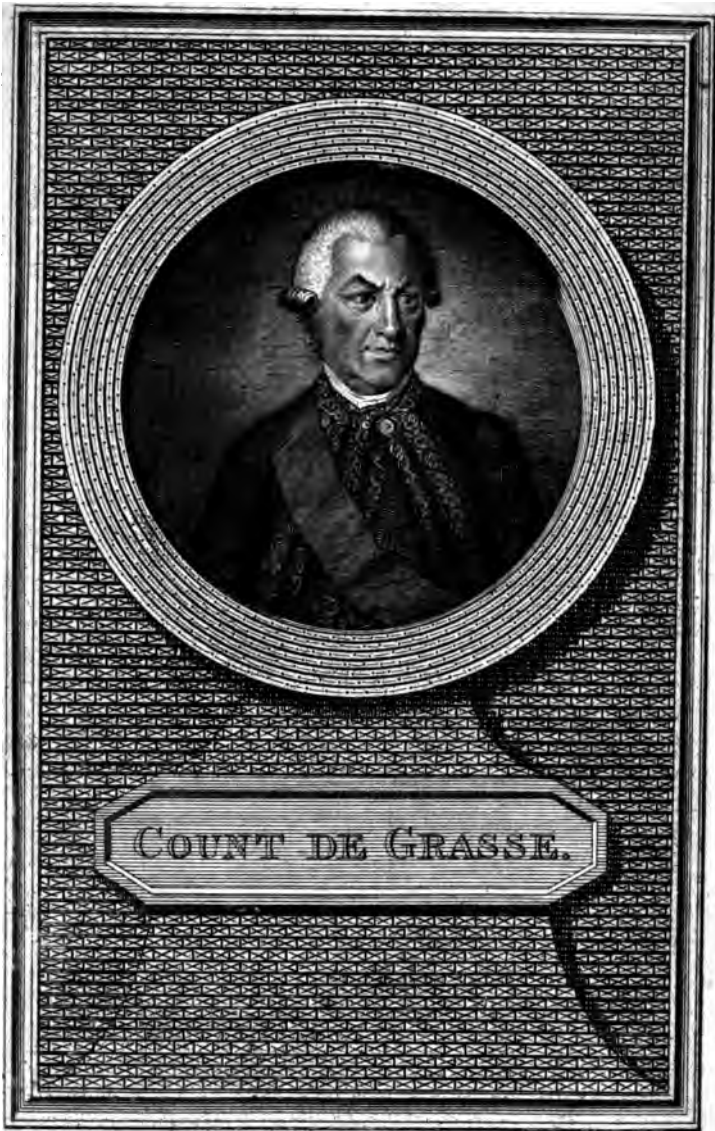
than fourteen ships of the line, while Count de Graffe was at the head of four-and-twenty.

No information of the arrival of the French fleet had reached New York when Admirals Graves and Hood left that place on the last day of August, with an intent to proceed southward, in expectation of falling in with that very fleet which was supposed to be yet on its way. But on approaching the Chesapeake, on the morning of the fifth of September, they discovered it at anchor, lying across the entrance of the bay, and extended from Cape Henry to the middle ground.

The united force of the two Admirals amounted only to nineteen ships of the line. They bore down however upon the enemy with great resolution, and gave them a fair opportunity of coming to close action; but they avoided it with great care. The engagement did not commence till about four in the afternoon, owing to the difficulty of nearing the French sufficiently for that manner of fighting which the British Admiral had in view, and which the French Admiral studiously declined. The van of the British squadron bore the chief brunt of the day: notwithstanding the superiority of the force with which it had to contend, it obliged the van of the French to bear away. Their center, when compelled to cover the ships that were retreating, did it at a considerable distance, and seemed to have no other intent than to consult the general safety of their fleet.

The action did not end till sun-set; and the British fleet was kept all night extended on a line with the enemy, in order to renew it at day-break. In this position both the fleets continued during the next day, repairing the damages they had sustained; the French not making any motions that indicated an intention to engage.

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Out of twelve ships that were able to fetch the enemy sufficiently for execution, one was so shattered, that after taking out its contents, the hull was set on fire; and five others had received so much hurt, that it was thought unadvisable to re-attack the enemy until they had been refitted. The loss in killed and wounded did not exceed three hundred and twenty. During five days, the British and French fleets continued in sight of each other: but notwithstanding its advantages in number, the latter showed no disposition to venture a second action; and constantly took the benefit of the wind to maintain its distance.

While both fleets were thus observing each other's motions, the squadron under Monsieur de Barras, who had succeeded M. de Ternay in the command of the French naval force at Rhode Island, arrived in the Chesapeake on the tenth of September. He had left the harbour of Newport in that island on the twenty-fifth of August, and to avoid falling in with Admiral Graves, had stretched out a considerable way to sea. He brought with him ten large transports, freighted with heavy artillery, and other utensils necessary for the combined armies in their present enterprize.

The arrival of M. de Barras gave the French so great a superiority, that it was no longer safe to attack them. They now anchored within Cape Henry, and blocked up the passage into the bay.—Two British frigates that had been dispatched to cut away the buoys left by the French at the places of their anchoring, fell in between their two squadrons, and were captured. These circumstances made it expedient for the British fleet to return to New York.

The French being now in possession of the Chesapeake, the situation of the army under Lord Cornwallis was become highly critical. One part of
Count

Count de Grasse's fleet blocked up York river; another was stationed on James River; by which means all communication was cut off with the countries south of it. A body of between three and four thousand French troops was landed from this fleet, in order to join the forces under the Marquis de la Fayette, which were now daily augmenting by the arrival of those conducted by General Washington and Count de Rochambeau. These different corps formed a complete junction at Williamsburgh before the close of September.

The computation of the strength now employed against Lord Cornwallis, stated it at near nine thousand French; about ten thousand American regulars, and six thousand chosen militia and marksmen. But that which proved the greatest annoyance to the British troops, was the heavy artillery of the enemy; against which their own was too small to be of any material service.

The latter days of September were employed by the enemy in forming a regular investment of the town and fortifications constructed by the British troops, and in seizing the various posts which these had been obliged to abandon for want of sufficient numbers to defend them. A remarkable emulation was observed between the French and Americans:—General Washington had selected his best troops for this important occasion; and the French were confessedly chosen out of the bravest corps in France.

The trenches before York Town were opened on the night of the sixth of October, in two separate places, by the French and Americans respectively. The batteries which they erected, exclusive of their being served by the most expert people in that line, were mounted with one hundred pieces of cannon. Their weight of metal was such, as soon to destroy the earthen defences the besieged had raised, and to silence their artillery, which was quickly found too
flight

slight to stand the least competition with that of the enemy.

In the midst of these difficulties, the resolution of the British troops was in the highest degree conspicuous. They were constantly employed in constructing new works, and repairing those that were destroyed by the cannon of the besiegers. These, however, from the superiority of their fire, daily gained ground, and made good their approaches towards the place. By lodging themselves in the abandoned works, they had blocked up the besieged in a circle of very little extent, which gave them great advantages in straitening the former, confining their operations, and especially in annoying every part of the garrison from their numerous batteries.

From the sixth to the fourteenth of October, the fire of the enemy was incessantly kept up from heavy cannon, mortars, and howitzers, which did great execution. The works of the place were so much damaged, that it was plainly perceived they would shortly become untenable.

On the fourteenth, at night, two detachments of the enemy, the one French, the other Americans, attacked and stormed two redoubts in the front of the British works. They were defended with great valour, and not taken without uncommon exertion on the part of the enemy: the French, in particular, lost a number of their bravest men.

In order to destroy the batteries erected by the enemy on the ground that had been occupied by these redoubts, a vigorous sally was made, composed of grenadiers and light infantry, commanded by Colonel Abercromby. They defeated the body of men that guarded these batteries, slew and wounded many of them, and retired with little loss on their side, after spiking the guns. But the batteries were re-established on the next day, and reinforced

forced with an additional number of pieces ; and it became impracticable, from the multitude appointed to the defence of this post, and the strength of the works around it, to make another attempt.

The troops were at this time so reduced by sickness, as well as by the accidents of war, that they amounted to little more than three thousand six hundred men fit for duty, including servants and artificers. They were not able to show a single gun to the enemy ; and their stock of shells was nearly exhausted.

In this extremity, Lord Cornwallis, desirous to save all that he could of so brave a body of men, resolved to convey them over to Gloucester Point, on the other side of the river. An attempt was made accordingly ; but it was defeated by adverse weather.

On the failure of this design, all hopes of retreat were necessarily at an end ; and nothing remained but to make good their defence, if possible, until that assistance should arrive which they had been some time expecting ; and in hope of which they had encountered the hardships and perils of their situation with so much patience and resolution.

The British fleet that had engaged Count de Grasse, was at this time at New York, occupied in repairing the damages it had received, and refitting with the utmost expedition, in order to return to the Chesapeake, to the relief of the British army at York Town. It had lately been joined by several ships of force, and now amounted to twenty-five sail of the line, two fifties, and eight frigates. But this was a very inadequate strength to that of the French fleet under Count de Grasse, which consisted of thirty-six ships of the line, including the squadron of M. de Barras. This great disparity made no impression on the minds of the British commanders : they determined to risk every danger for the deliverance of Lord Cornwallis.

Sir

Sir Henry Clinton was no less solicitous in forwarding this resolute attempt to the utmost of his power. He selected seven thousand of his best troops, with which he embarked in person on board of the fleet. In a council of war held by the chief naval and land officers, the most decided resolutions were taken to encounter the extremest hazards in the prosecution of the object proposed. Herein they were fully seconded by the firmness and spirit of all ranks in the fleet and army. They displayed on this occasion an ardour and promptitude, which excited the greatest hopes in their commanders.

But the delays occasioned by the preparations that were indispensably necessary, prevented the armament from sailing at the time that had been expected. It was not over the bar at Sandy Hook till the nineteenth of October, though its departure had been fixed on the fifth of that month, and notice had in consequence been given to Lord Cornwallis.

The French and Americans were duly sensible that every effort would be made to rescue him.— From this motive they used the utmost endeavours to reduce him to the necessity of yielding before the arrival of the British succours. They were thoroughly persuaded, that could these effect a junction with him, the combined armies would stand little chance of accomplishing their design. Notwithstanding their naval superiority, they were very unwilling to venture an engagement with an enemy who had always fought them with inferior numbers, and would doubtless on such an occasion as the present, put to the highest test that courage, and those professional abilities they had so often experienced.

The consequence of the failure to pass the troops over to Gloucester Point, was, that the enemy, on the discovery of this intent, doubled their exertions
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in every quarter. The batteries they had newly erected were opened with great vivacity and execution; and as they commanded the passage over the river, all retreat was now cut off. An incessant and most tremendous fire was kept up on every part of the fortifications. Some of the oldest officers and soldiers in both armies, concurred in declaring, that they had never witnessed a more heavy and continual discharge of artillery than that which now took place.

The works were by this time nearly demolished everywhere; and an assault was every moment expected. The impossibility of withstanding such a multitude of assailants with the handful that remained, was evident. Under these circumstances, Lord Cornwallis felt the necessity of adopting the speediest means of preserving the lives of his brave followers from the certain destruction that must follow in the general attack that was meditating by the enemy's fleet and army.

Constant watching, and unremitting duty, had totally exhausted the strength of the troops: their numbers were no longer sufficient to relieve each other in the unceasing and excessive toil that hourly increased upon them. Having carried their perseverance to the utmost extremity, and no prospect of relief appearing, a negotiation was opened with General Washington, and proposals made to capitulate.

In the extremity to which the garrison at York Town was now reduced, it could do no otherwise than submit to the terms imposed by the conqueror. The troops and seamen were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war. The first were assigned to the Americans, the second to the French.—Their number amounted to between six and seven thousand: their private property was allowed them; and to the officers the liberty of returning to New York,

York, or to Britain, on parole. The artillery that fell into the hands of the Americans consisted of above one hundred pieces, seventy of which were of brass. They took possession of three frigates, one of twenty-eight, and two of twenty guns, besides a number of transports, and other vessels.—Many had been destroyed during the siege, among these was a ship of forty guns, set on fire by the shells of the enemy. The quantity of arms, ammunition, warlike stores, and provisions, was very considerable.

A point strenuously insisted upon by Lord Cornwallis, was, that such of the Americans as had joined him should incur no punishment on that account. But General Washington refused his assent to this demand; assigning for a reason that it was of civil resort, and out of his competency. In order, however, to provide for their safety, Lord Cornwallis stipulated that a larger vessel, which was to carry his letters and dispatches to New York, should proceed without being searched. By means of this conveyance they were effectually secured from danger.

All due care was taken for the good treatment of the soldiers belonging to the British army. They were distributed in the three provinces of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, as much by regiments as practicable. Their allowance of provisions to be the same as that of the American soldiers. One officer to fifty men, to reside near them, for the purpose of inspecting and providing for their proper treatment. At their departure for the respective places of their confinement, they were comfortably clad, and found in plenty of necessaries, and sufficient arrangements made for their being regularly and abundantly supplied with all reasonable conveniences.

The behaviour of the enemy on this occasion, was such as did them much honour. Lord Cornwallis acknowledged in his letter to Sir Henry Clinton, that their conduct had been perfectly proper. But in speaking of the French, he expatiates with heart-felt satisfaction on the liberality of disposition they manifested ; and concludes, by hoping they would meet with a due return of gratitude, whenever the chances of war should put them in the power of Englishmen.

In this manner was terminated in America the important and decisive campaign of the year eighty-one. It put an end to all further expectations of bringing the independency of the Americans into question. The spirit of enterprize that had been so resolutely kept up by the British commanders, and their people, since the commencement of hostilities, was now of necessity dropped, and confined to the narrow limits of preserving the posts yet in possession of the British forces.

Never had this spirit been exerted with more vigour than in the expedition conducted by Lord Cornwallis. Through difficulties and trials of every kind, the brave men he commanded, animated by his example, had conquered all obstructions, so far as it could be overcome in a country, from the nature of which it was impossible to subdue the resistance of the inhabitants, while they continued united, and determined not to yield.

Both French and Americans, the first especially, confessed that no troops could have better deserved a happier fate than that they met with. They acted to the last with an intrepidity that won them the admiration of all judges of military merit. The place they had defended with so much courage against the combined armies, was not only in the words of Lord Cornwallis, but in the opinion of the enemy himself, no more than an intrenched camp,
subject

subject in most places to be enfiladed. To have made so noble a stand in so disadvantageous a position, was justly deemed an extraordinary effort of the most consummate skill and bravery.

In the mean time, the British armament arrived from New York, in the full determination to rush into every danger for the preservation of their countrymen. They appeared off the Chesapeake on the twenty-fourth of October; but to their heavy mortification, were apprized that the surrender of the British army had taken place on the nineteenth, the very day they sailed from Sandy Hook.

Both the naval and land officers were fully confident, that could they have possibly arrived at the time first proposed, this event would undoubtedly have been prevented. It was therefore with the deeper grief they lamented a misfortune, of which they could not fail to perceive the consequences.

The French fleet, on the other hand, notwithstanding the elatedness naturally proceeding from success, and its superior strength in every respect, did not leave the position it had taken. The motive of the expedition being at an end, and as no prospect offered of drawing the enemy to action, the British commanders took the resolution of returning to New York: they effected it without meeting the least interruption.

The joy and exultation that were now spread over the whole continent of North America, may be better conceived than expressed. The surrender of the army under Lord Cornwallis, was considered as the final decision of the contest between Great Britain and the Colonies. All that now remained to be done, appeared a work of ease and facility in comparison of what had, after so much toil and suffering, been at length accomplished. No room was now left for anxiety concerning the main objects,—independence and sovereignty. These were

now completely secured in the opinion of all men ; and it was not doubted the British ministry would, ere long, be compelled to yield to necessity, and acknowledge them, in concurrence with the rest of Europe.

The importance and conviction felt by General Washington of the magnitude of the success obtained by the French and American arms, was strongly manifested in the orders published in his camp the day following the reduction of the British army. The warmth of style with which his thanks and congratulations were conveyed to the officers and soldiers of the combined armies, was striking and conspicuous. Among other particulars that testified the greatness of his satisfaction, he issued a general pardon to all persons in the Continental army who were at this time under arrest ; in order, said he, that every heart should partake of the general joy.

Nor did he omit what he knew would be peculiarly acceptable to the religious turn of numbers of his countrymen. He especially enjoined in the conclusion of his orders, that a thanksgiving service should be performed, at which it was solemnly recommended to the troops to assist with that seriousness and sensibility of heart, which the particular and surprising interposition of Providence in their favour so justly claimed. Such were his expressions.

The satisfaction manifested by Congress was adequate to the signal good fortune that had attended them. After voting their thanks to General Washington, Count Rochambeau, and Count de Grasse, and to the officers and soldiers of the combined armies, for the services they had performed, they resolved, that in remembrance of the surrender of the British army, a marble column should be erected at York Town, in Virginia, adorned with emblems of the alliance between France and the

the United States of America, and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the memorable event it was intended to commemorate.

Presents and acknowledgments of various kinds were also ordained by Congress upon this occasion, and proportioned to the rank of those to whom they were decreed. General Washington was honoured with the addresses of every province in the confederacy, and with the most flattering applauses from all ranks of individuals throughout the continent.

Among those occurrences to which the complexion of the time gave birth, an incident happened at Philadelphia, which was noticed as the most remarkable circumstance that accompanied the rejoicings which took place on account of this event.

A discourse was delivered in the Roman Catholic church of that city, by Monsieur de Bangle, Chaplain to the French Resident, at which the Congress assisted, in complaisance to that minister.—It was framed upon those religious and political principles which the orator was conscious were perfectly suitable to the temper and ideas of his auditory.

Addressing himself to the people of America—“Those miracles,” said he, “which the Almighty once wrought for his chosen people, are again renewed in your favour. It would be equally ungrateful and impious not to acknowledge, that the event which lately confounded your enemies, and frustrated their designs, was the wonderful work of that God who guards your liberties.

“Who but He could so combine the circumstances which led to success?—We have seen our enemies push forward amidst perils almost innumerable, amidst obstructions almost insurmountable, to the spot which was designed for their defeat: yet they eagerly sought it, as a place of triumph.

“ Blind, as they were ! they bore hunger, thirst, and inclement skies ; poured out their blood in battle, and crossed immense regions, to confine themselves in another Jericho, whose walls were fated to fall before another Joshua. It is He whose voice commands the seasons, winds, and seas, who formed a junction in the most critical hour, between that formidable fleet from the South, and that army which was rushing like an impetuous torrent from the North. Who but He, in whose hands are the hearts of men, could inspire the allied troops with the friendship, the confidence, the tenderness of brethren ?—How is it, that two nations, once divided, jealous, inimical, and nursed in reciprocal prejudices, are now become so cordially united as to form but one ?—Worldlings would say, it is the wisdom, the virtue, and the moderation of their chiefs ; it is a great national interest which has performed this prodigy : they will say, that to the skill of the generals, to the courage of the troops, to the activity of the whole army, we must attribute this splendid success. Ah ! they are ignorant that the combining of so many fortunate circumstances, is an emanation from the All-perfect Mind ; that courage, that skill, that activity, bear the secret impress of Him who is divine.

“ For how many favours have we not to thank Him during the course of the present year ?—Your union, which was at first supported by justice alone, has now been consolidated by your courage. You now present to the universe the noble sight of a society, which, founded on equality, secures to the individuals who compose it, the utmost happiness which can be derived from human institutions. This advantage, which so many other nations have been unable to procure, even after ages of effort and misery, is granted by Divine Providence to the United States ; and his adorable decrees have
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marked the present moment for the completion of that memorable revolution which has taken place on this extensive continent."

This celebrated discourse was received with universal applause by its audience, and spoken of among the public as a masterly composition, judiciously timed, and perfectly corresponding with the persuasion and disposition of the generality of the inhabitants of America. Certain it is, that throughout the whole of this unhappy contest, the people in the Colonies, those in the North especially, were intimately convinced that their cause was founded on the strongest basis of equity, and that they had the clearest reason to hope that Heaven would interpose in their behalf. This belief was diffused among all classes, and diligently enforced by their ruling men.

They had not been a little confirmed in these notions by the critical arrival of Count de Grasse in the Chesapeake, on the very same day, and at the very same hour, when the combined armies reached the head of the river Elk. The fortunate junction of the squadron under Monsieur de Barras, was viewed in the same light: without this accession, the naval strength of France would have been unequal to the operations proposed; but by such a reinforcement, obtained at once a superiority that became irresistible and decisive.

What coincided no less with these ideas, was the situation of affairs at the commencement of the year. The spirit and resources of Great Britain had been displayed in a manner that astonished all Europe. Her resolute behaviour with Holland, the undauntedness with which she continued to face France and Spain, the immense sums she had raised in support of the war, the numerous fleets and armies with which she opposed her ene-

mies in every quarter of the globe, the successes that had lately attended her arms in the Southern Colonies, and the distresses of every denomination to which the American continent was evidently reduced, afforded little prospect of the present campaign terminating so advantageously to those enemies whose humiliation she had principally in view, and whom she now considered as driven to the brink of despair.

While the religious part of society was indulging itself in contemplations of this nature, politicians were no less busily employed in considering how to make the most of this auspicious turn of affairs, and in what manner to improve to their benefit an event that visibly led to the great revolution which was the ultimate object of their efforts and wishes.





CHAP. LXIII.

Transactions in India to the Close of Eighty-one.

DURING these transactions in Europe and the American hemisphere, the British Empire in the East was experiencing great vicissitudes of fortune, and seemed exposed to the same danger as on the continent of North America.

Those who presided over the possessions of Great Britain in that rich and extensive quarter of the globe, were at this time involved, from various causes, in a perilous quarrel with the two most potent of their neighbours. These were the warlike and populous nation of the Marattas, and the celebrated Hyder Ally, one of the greatest politicians and warriors that was ever known in India. From small beginnings he had, through courage and artifice, arrived to a degree of power that rendered him the most considerable Prince in that part of Asia; but his views were not yet satisfied; his active and capacious mind had long been forming plans of further aggrandisement, and he was now engaged in the full career of their prosecution.

Some years antecedent to the present period, the East-India Company had been involved in a dangerous contest with him, which was terminated by a treaty, wherein it was reciprocally agreed, that both should assist each other against their enemies. A war breaking out shortly after between him and the Marattas, he claimed the assistance of the Company in virtue of this stipulation; but they refused it; alleging their apprehension to draw themselves into a quarrel with the Marattas, a measure which they could not justify, and to which they were not inclined.

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In the mean time, as the fortune of Hyder Ally seemed to give way to the superior strength and exertions of the Marattas, he again applied for succours to the Presidency of Madras; but experienced constant denials, on various pretences, and was at length convinced that he could place no reliance on their friendship.

This laid the foundation of an inveterate resentment in Hyder Ally. Having found means to conclude a peace with the Marattas, he turned his attention to the means of recovering his losses upon the first opportunity that might offer. For this purpose he sought a connexion with the French, who, on the other hand, readily embraced so favourable an occasion to strengthen their interest in India. They fell in with all his views. They supplied him with warlike necessaries in the greatest abundance; and what was of still greater utility, with a number of officers and military men. Through their assistance he introduced an order and discipline among his troops, to which the armies of Indian Princes had hitherto been total strangers. Among other essential improvements he collected a formidable artillery, with a numerous and well-trained body of men to serve it, a large proportion of which consisted of Europeans.

When he found himself sufficiently prepared for the ends he had proposed, he recommenced the war against the Marattas, and carried it on with such a series of advantages, as gave him a decided superiority over them. He now became the most dreaded and powerful Prince in that vast peninsula situated between the Indus and the Ganges.

Exclusive of the secret ill-will of Hyder Ally, the English had at this period no less a dangerous enemy. The Marattas were highly at variance with them, on account of the interference in the internal affairs of that nation assumed by the Company.

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It had, contrary to the sense and desire of those by whom that nation was governed, espoused the cause of an individual universally obnoxious to his countrymen, from his infamous character; and had endeavoured to invest him with a degree of authority, of which he was evidently unworthy, and to which he had no lawful claim.

In the process of the dispute to which this attempt gave birth, several negotiations took place between the Company and the Marattas; but they proved ineffectual, from the determination of the former to adhere to the project it had formed of profiting by their civil dissensions, and the difficulties they experienced in the war they were at the same time waging with Hyder Ally.

Perplexed by the treatment they met with from the Company, and dreading the danger to which they were exposed by continuing the war against Hyder Ally in such critical circumstances, they determined to conclude a peace with him, in order to be the better able to make a stand against the Company.

In the mean time the power to which this body had attained in India, and the design of increasing it, which could not escape the notice of the Indian Princes, occasioned these to feel much jealousy and disquietude. A gradual communication of their sentiments on this matter was reciprocally made, and excited the resolution to put a stop to the farther progress of the English, which threatened in time to bring under their subjection all the potentates of India.

A confederacy was formed between the most potent princes in the vast country of Indostan; the avowed purpose of which was to expel the English from that part of the world. The motives they assigned for this resolution were the rapacity and ambition manifested by the conduct of the English,
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and their evident intention to stop at nothing for the gratification of both, upon every opportunity that fell in their way.

The chief parties in this dangerous league were the Marattas and Hyder Ally, both of whom had agreed to a pacification, in order to join their forces and make a common cause against the Company. The latter was however the most to be apprehended from his character, and the objects he had in view. Bold and enterprising, yet cautious and full of sagacity and foresight, he was an enemy who, though actuated by the keenest ardour, proceeded upon plans formed with the utmost coolness and examination. The expulsion of the English, which was the ultimate aim of the Confederation, of which he was the principal member, was to him but a part of the vast system he had projected. This was to raise himself to a supremacy above all his neighbours, and to establish a kind of universal monarchy: A scheme, which he was conscious could not be accomplished without the total destruction of the English power in India.

Fraught with these ideas, and firmly bent on their execution, he soon found an occasion to proceed to hostilities with the Company. Exclusive of the general motives of the combination framed against them, he was highly incensed at the liberty they had lately taken, to order a detachment of their troops to march through a part of his territories, without receiving his permission. This had offended him the more, as he stood upon dubious terms with the prince to whom they were sent as auxiliaries. The consequence was, that these troops were opposed and compelled to desist from their intention; and that Hyder Ally invaded that prince's country, and forced him to renounce the connection he had formed with the English, from
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the impossibility of his fulfilling the engagements on which it was founded.

The taking of the French fort and settlement of Mahie, on the coast of Malabar, afforded him another ground of complaint. He asserted that place to be within his dominions, and that the French were of course under his protection.

He was in the mean while taking the most effectual measures for the prosecution of the main design of the Indian Confederacy against the English. Private negotiations were carried on between him and the emissaries of France, who gave him the strongest assurances of the firmest support. His troops were assembling from every part of his dominions, and every provision making for the great blow he was now meditating against the Company.

His chief aim in all these mighty preparations was the British settlement at Madras, against which he entertained a particular pique and resentment. He accused that Presidency of having infringed the treaty, formerly made with a view of laying the foundation of a solid peace and cordial correspondence, and of being guilty of such acts of enmity as shewed them to be his inveterate foes.

During these preparations on the part of Hyder Ally, the Presidency of Madras remained in a state of unaccountable inactivity. They were daily informed of his proceedings, yet no measure was taken to counteract them. They were unhappily employed in differences and personal altercations, that deprived them of the power of acting either with consistency or energy.

So great was the neglect occasioned by these dissensions, that the passes through the mountains on the borders of the Carnatic were left unguarded, as if it had been a time of profound peace, and no suspicion existed of the approach of an enemy.

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This negligence was an additional spur to the enterprising disposition of Hyder Ally. He improved it with his usual ability, by securing those passages with the utmost speed. With the same diligence he marched his army through them, before any opposition could be made to its passage, or any endeavours to recover them.

Notwithstanding these movements, the same defect of vigilance and vigour still prevailed at Madras. They were debating about the designs of Hyder Ally, and the conduct to be adopted against him, while he was penetrating into the very heart of the Carnatic, and advancing to the gates of Madras. He was now at the head of an army of upwards of one hundred thousand men; among whom was a large body of Europeans under French officers, and commanded by Colonel Lally, a man of known expertness and bravery.

Had the troops belonging to the Presidency of Madras been properly collected, this irruption of Hyder Ally might easily have been prevented; but they were so much dispersed, that no opposition could be formed at the present. He was now master of the open country, which he ravaged and over-ran without resistance.

A considerable body of the Company's troops was at this time stationed in a district called Guntoor. It was thought necessary at Madras, to send orders to it to march with all expedition to reinforce the army that was forming under the command of Sir Hector Monro. To effect the more speedy a junction, the army moved forwards to meet this body, which was commanded by Colonel Bailie, an officer of great valour and experience, and composed of as excellent troops as any in the Company's service. But the difficulties of the march it had to perform were so many, that its progress was
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extremely slow, and attended with every kind of danger.

The march of the army itself, that was on its way to join this body, met with a multitude of retardments. The numerous forces of Hyder Ally harrassed it on every side; and when arrived at Conjeveram, the place where the junction was to be made, it was found that Hyder Ally's army had posted itself in such a manner as effectually to prevent it.

He now divided his forces in two parts. With the one he faced Sir Hector, the other he detached in order to make an attack upon Colonel Baillie; but it was, after a long and bloody conflict, intirely defeated. Notwithstanding this advantage, the situation of the Colonel was extremely dangerous; the intervention of such a prodigious force as that under Hyder Ally, rendered his marching forward to join Sir Hector Munro, absolutely impracticable with so small a force; and the utmost he could do, was to maintain his position, which, however, was highly difficult from the want of provisions.

Sir Hector Monro was in no less perplexing a dilemma: his whole force consisted of only six thousand men, and though a great proportion of them were Europeans, his cavalry was but a handful, totally unable to contend with the immense numbers of which that of Hyder Ally was composed. The country where the enemy lay was an extensive flat, which afforded every advantage to their cavalry, and exposed his troops to the manifest danger of being surrounded by it on every side.

In these distressful circumstances, the resolution was taken in the British army, to dispatch Colonel Fletcher, an officer of distinguished courage and ability, at the head of a body of chosen men, to reinforce Colonel Baillie. They took their departure at the beginning of the night, and by a long and
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circuitous march, avoided an ambuscade that had been prepared by the enemy, and effected a junction with Colonel Baillie.

On receiving this intelligence, Hyder Ally became apprehensive that it was intended to attack him on both sides, and deliberated accordingly about a change in his position; but being informed that the troops under Sir Hector Monro did not shew any design of moving from their incampment, he detached his bravest men and best officers, to way-lay the detachment under Colonels Baillie and Fletcher.

These two officers having made the necessary dispositions for the arduous business they were about to undertake, began their march at the break of day, and proceeded forward with the utmost firmness and order. When they had reached the spot where the enemy awaited them, they were suddenly assailed on the right and left, with a most dreadful fire of musketry and cannon, loaded with grape-shot. They bore the attack with undaunted courage; and though they had no more than ten pieces of cannon to return the discharge of sixty, they made such excellent use of them, that the enemy were repulsed with a terrible slaughter; and after repeated attempts to break their order of march, Hyder Ally began to despair of accomplishing his purpose.

The battle had now lasted three hours. Notwithstanding the flower of Hyder Ally's army was employed upon this occasion, not the least impression had been made upon Colonel Baillie's corps, though it had to contend with a body of infantry consisting of thirty thousand men, and one of cavalry exceeding twenty-five thousand, and was not itself computed at above five thousand, about a fifth part of which were Europeans.

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Hyder Ally was not without apprehensions, that the forces under General Monro might, while he was engaged with Colonel Baillie, advance upon him from the other side. In order to confine their attention to their own quarter, by impressing them with a persuasion that his intention was to attack them, large bodies of his cavalry paraded in sight of the English camp, and seemed by their motions to indicate an attempt upon it.

Till near ten in the forenoon, the success of the day was evidently in favour of the English; when, through an unfortunate accident, victory was snatched out of their hands, contrary to the expectation of the enemy, no less than their own.

Hyder Ally was so convinced of his inability to keep the field any longer, that he had given positive orders for a retreat, and was actually drawing off his troops, when the tunbrils that carried the gunpowder belonging to the British detachment, were suddenly blown up; and the whole remaining stock of ammunition was thereby at once destroyed.

The explosion, together with the destruction it occasioned, and the confusion into which it threw the English, being immediately perceived by the enemy, they returned to the charge with the utmost speed. Hyder Ally's son, Tippoo Saib, a prince of great spirit and ability, fell in upon them at the head of his cavalry, before they could have time to recover from their disorder; and, assisted by a large body of French infantry, broke everywhere into their line. The slaughter was dreadful; scarce a Sepoy escaping.

The European division of the army keeping together in a compact body, fought their way with their bayonets to a rising ground, where Colonel Baillie drew the men up in a square. Both himself and most of his people were covered with wounds: but in this grievous condition, destitute of ammu-

nition, and having no other weapons than their bayonets and swords, they withstood, with an invincible fortitude, the unceasing attacks of the enemy, that poured upon them from all sides a continual deluge of fire.

They were at length overwhelmed by the multitudes that prest upon them; but they fell like men who disdained to survive their misfortune: lying on the ground, and weltering in their blood, they still presented their bayonets at the victorious and slaughtering enemy.

The destruction that befel the British European troops on this fatal day, was terrible for the proportion employed in this part of the world: it amounted to near seven hundred slain. Among the many gallant officers that fell, was the brave Colonel Fletcher, whose loss alone would have been esteemed a heavy calamity.

His fellow-commander, Colonel Baillie, had the good fortune to escape with life, with about two hundred of his men, who were made prisoners.—When brought into the presence of Hyder Ally, that resolute officer behaved with the same intrepidity which he had displayed in the field. He boldly told him, that mere accident had given him the victory; and that he himself had already gained it, when it was wrested from his hands by a mischance, which prudence could not foresee, nor valour prevent.—Such was the issue of this famous battle, which was fought on the tenth of September of the year eighty.

But this accidental victory was dearly purchased by the enemy. The havock made among them was so great, that it was industriously concealed by the order of Hyder Ally. He was equally ashamed and incensed, that so inconsiderable a body of men should have been able to destroy such numbers of his bravest troops, and that the success he had obtained,

tained, should have been owing to an unforeseen casualty, and by no means to the military exertions of his people.

These reflections could not fail to break in upon his mind, in the midst of the triumph and exultation, which, from good policy, he was particularly careful to encourage among his officers and soldiers, upon this memorable occasion.

He was, however, so deeply struck at the same time, with the astonishing intrepidity of the British troops, that he seemed ever after to consider them with a degree of terror, which he had not felt before. On the bare rumour of Sir Hector Munro's army approaching, he withdrew in the utmost confusion, relinquishing a great part of his camp and baggage, and abandoning those vast numbers that had been wounded in the late action.

But his apprehensions in this instance were groundless. On learning the disaster that had befallen Colonel Baillie's corps, the troops under Sir Hector Munro were fired with such wrath and indignation, that they expressed the most vehement desire to be led immediately against the enemy, in order to wreak their revenge upon them for the loss of their fellow-soldiers; but the General thought it imprudent to indulge their ardour. He was conscious of the weak state of his army, the diminution it had suffered from the detachment he had sent to the assistance of Colonel Baillie, and which was now entirely lost; his total want of provisions, his destitution of cavalry, and above all, the certain destruction that must fall upon Madras, and all the British possessions in the Carnatic, were he to meet with ill fortune in the present posture of affairs.

From these considerations he resolved to make a retreat, though much to the dissatisfaction of the troops, and of many of the officers under his com-

mand. The irregularity and disorder produced by these discontents, afforded the enemy an opportunity of harrassing them exceedingly on their march to the neighbourhood of Madras, where it was now determined to wait the reinforcements that were on their way thither, before entering upon any offensive operations.

The consequences of the late defeat were in the mean time highly alarming : the dissensions in the Presidency became daily more violent. Their authority decreased to such a degree, that a body of Sepoys openly revolted ; and the countries in their subjection retained so little attachment to their government, that the generality of the inhabitants were in the interests of Hyder Ally.

He was now occupied in the siege of Arcot, the capital of the Nabob of that name ; but the subjects of this Indian Prince, and ancient ally to the Company, were so ill affected to him, that numbers of his foldiers had deserted to Hyder Ally : these, together with the deserters from the Company, were esteemed the best troops in the enemy's service.

The accounts of the deplorable situation of the British affairs in the Carnatic, arriving at Bengal, the Supreme Council was struck with equal astonishment and concern, and determined immediately on using every exertion in its power for the preservation of this important branch of the British empire in India. A large body of troops, and an ample supply of money, were decreed for its relief ; and that brave and illustrious officer, Sir Eyre Coote, at this period commander in chief of all the British forces in India, was requested to assume the conduct of this expedition : in which, notwithstanding a very precarious state of health, he cheerfully acquiesced.

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On his arrival at Madras, he found matters in a worse condition than they had been represented, and than he expected. A spiritlessness and inactivity seemed to prevail among those who were at the head of affairs, that infected all their councils and operations. Personal variances engrossed all their attention, and induced a neglect of all other objects. Notwithstanding the imminent danger of immediate ruin, the preparations to resist the numerous and victorious enemy were carried on with the most scandalous tardiness. They had wholly forfeited the respect and confidence of the natives, and even of their own people: the complaints among the officers and men were equally open and acrimonious. It was insinuated that no dependence could be placed on the conduct of persons whose imprudence had occasioned so many calamities.

Hyder Ally was not wanting to improve all these untoward circumstances to the utmost. His forces infested all the places in the proximity of Madras, and extended themselves on all sides in such a manner as to render the communication with some of the outposts absolutely impracticable, and in a great measure to cut off all supplies.

The siege of Arcot was in the mean time continued with such vigour, that the defences being entirely ruined, it was taken by storm in the beginning of November, together with a strong fort adjoining to it; the loss of the place was heavily felt from the immense quantity of warlike stores it contained, and that fell into the hands of the enemy at a time when he was beginning to want them, and when they were still more necessary to those for whom they had been provided.

Such was the situation of affairs when Sir Eyre Coote took the command of the British forces in the Carnatic. His reputation however was so well established, that Hyder Ally thought it immediately

diately requisite to alter the nature of his operations, and to proceed with unusual cautiousness.

Retaining under his immediate command the best disciplined of his troops, he made large detachments of his immense army; which laid siege to the most important fortresses belonging to the Company. He made no doubt of their speedily falling into his hands for want of relief, as the necessity of facing him would prevent Sir Eyre Coote from venturing to divide the small army collected under the walls of Madras, and which did not amount to eight thousand effective men.

But the British General was convinced that to remain inactive at the present juncture, would embolden the enemy and dishearten his own people. He therefore formed a plan for the relief of Wandewash, one of the besieged places that appeared most in danger. His intentions meeting with the approbation of the Council of War, and of the Presidency, all things were prepared for their vigorous prosecution.

In the beginning of the year eighty-one, Sir Eyre Coote moved from the encampment that had so long been occupied near Madras, to the great satisfaction of the army, which had ill brooked its confinement at that place, while the enemy was over-running the neighbouring country. He advanced with all expedition to the assistance of Wandewash; his success in relieving which, it was not doubted, would make a strong impression upon the enemy, and contribute materially to the deliverance of the other places attacked by them.

But Hyder Ally did not think it safe to wait his approach; he abandoned the siege of every place that his troops had invested, and retired to a considerable distance on the other side of the Palaar; a river of which it had been expected he would have disputed the passage. After reinforcing the garrisons

of these and other places, Sir Eyre Coote continued to advance upon the enemy; who still retreated before him with a marked determination to avoid any engagement.

The success of this first expedition under Sir Eyre Coote, produced a total change in the face of affairs. Hyder Ally, from being master of the field, had been compelled to quit it on the very appearance of the British army. The terror of his arms was now entirely vanished: he had been driven to a distance that removed all apprehensions of danger from him; and instead of being the aggressor, as before, was now reduced to act himself on the defensive.

This restoration of good fortune to the British affairs struck a damp on all their numerous enemies, both open and concealed, and animated their own people to fresh exertions. A spirit of vigour and decision now took place of the languor and inattentiveness which had been the principal causes of past misfortunes, and had enabled Hyder Ally to execute those designs which he never would have dared to attempt, but from his knowledge of the distractions that prevailed among the English at Madras.

After forcing Hyder Ally to relinquish his original enterprise, the next important service of which the performance required the utmost expedition, was the securing of Pondicherry. After the reduction of that settlement, two years before, the French, who remained there, had been treated with the most exemplary lenity; their private property had been left untouched, and all their officers, both civil and military, had been indulged with every kind of liberty, upon giving their parole. But the unexpected success of Hyder Ally, and the expectations of the arrival of a powerful squadron and body of men from France, had wrought

such a change in their behaviour, that they could not conceal their disposition to avail themselves of the first opportunity of breaking through their engagements with the English.

The well-grounded suspicions entertained by those, induced them to judge it necessary to remove to Madras the principal, and such as appeared the most ill-intentioned and dangerous among the French inhabitants at Pondicherry. These latter however made such protestations of their fidelity, that the British Presidency granted them permission to remain at Pondicherry, upon their signing a solemn promise, to adhere with the strictest punctuality to the articles of the capitulation.

But this lenity could not overcome their determination to infringe them as soon as they imagined they might do it with security. The necessity of the times obliging the British garrison to withdraw from that place to Madras, the French immediately threw off the mask, and proceeded to raise a large body of those Sepoys that had formerly been in their service, and to collect a large quantity of provisions for the use of the squadron and troops, of which they daily expected the arrival from Europe and the islands of Mauritius.

In order to obviate the designs of the French at Pondicherry, they were forthwith disarmed. The magazines that they had amassed were seized, and all the boats in their possession destroyed. The necessity of these precautions appeared shortly after. A French squadron, according to expectation, arrived off Pondicherry, in full confidence of being supplied with water and other necessaries; but was obliged to depart without meeting with the least assistance, for want of small craft to convey them on board.

In the mean time the army of Hyder Ally had received large reinforcements from every part of his

his dominions, and was become so formidable, that he began to conceive hopes of being able again to try his fortune in battle. It amounted to near two hundred thousand men, forty thousand of whom were cavalry, and fifteen thousand well disciplined Sepoys. He now turned his views to the siege of Trichinopoly, and an attempt on the districts to the south of Madras.

Sir Eyre Coote moved with all diligence to their protection; his deficiency in cavalry subjected him to numberless inconveniences and dangers; but the spirit of his troops was equal to every difficulty. His army was encamped at Porte Novo for the benefit of receiving necessaries from the squadron under Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, without whose assistance its present operation could not have taken place.

Hyder Ally, notwithstanding the immensity of his strength, did not dare to commit himself in the open field with Sir Eyre Coote. He had taken a very advantageous position, within a small distance of the British army, for the purpose of harassing it with his cavalry, and preventing it from receiving supplies by land.

Having taken the resolution to attack him, Sir Eyre Coote began his march to that intent early in the morning. He had not proceeded far before he discovered that Hyder Ally's arrangements corresponded exactly with those he had made in the engagement with Colonel Baillie. The route which was of necessity to be taken by the British army, was commanded by numerous batteries: it advanced nevertheless with the utmost firmness and good order, returning but few shot to those of the enemy, and reserving its fire for close and decisive action.

On reconnoitring the enemy's situation, Sir Eyre Coote determined to make a movement to their left, in order to turn it, and thereby avoid the attacking them

them in their front, where his troops would be exposed to the full fire of their batteries in every direction. This motion was performed with great resolution and celerity by his first line ; the second, in the mean time, taking possession of a high ground in the intermediate space between them, by which means the communication between both was maintained, and the enemy prevented from cutting off either of them from the support of the other.

Hyder Ally, on perceiving this new disposition of the British army, was compelled to change his own order of battle : he formed his army in three divisions ; the first was opposed to the line under Sir Eyre Coote, the second to that under General Stuart, which occupied the heights, and the third was ordered to penetrate through a valley between them, and then dividing to the right and left, to attack the rear of both.

These various movements of both armies took up so much time, that it was nine o'clock before the action commenced, by Sir Eyre Coote's line charging the enemy's left. It received him with great courage and steadiness, and stood its ground with an order and obstinacy unusual in the armies of Indian Princes, till inculcated by the abilities of Hyder Ally.

His right wing had in the mean time advanced upon General Stuart's line, and attacked him with the utmost fury ; while that body which was designed to make its way through the ground between both the British lines, exerted itself vigorously to this intent. The dispute was long maintained here with great valour and perseverance on both sides.

The military talents of Hyder Ally rendered this one of the severest conflicts that ever happened between an European and Indian army. It lasted from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon.

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—The skill and experience of Sir Eyre Coote and his officers, and the bravery and discipline of his soldiers were on this day put to the fullest test: it was not without the extremest efforts of generalship and intrepidity, that the enemy was obliged at length to give way on all parts, after having been foiled in every attempt, with a terrible slaughter of their bravest troops, and the loss of Hyder Ally's principal general and his best officers.

This memorable victory was obtained on the first of July, eighty-one. It would have proved far more decisive, had the British army been able to pursue the enemy: but the want of cavalry was an evil that occasioned many others. Through this deficiency the enemy was enabled to carry off his cannon and baggage, and to make good his retreat, while Sir Eyre Coote was obliged to be contented with remaining master of the field.

It was however no small glory to have defeated the greatest warrior perhaps that was ever produced in India, at the head of an army, formed and created, as it were, by his own superior genius and industry, and brought by his indefatigable endeavours to a state of professional regularity and discipline equal to that of European veterans. What rendered the defeating of such a man, and such an army the more conspicuous, was the nature of the strength with which it was effected: excepting about two thousand British officers and soldiers, the residue of Sir Eyre Coote's army was, like that of Hyder Ally, composed of natives of India, little more than six thousand in number.

The loss of this battle wrought an immediate change in Hyder Ally's plan of warfare. He seemed for a while determined to renounce all general engagements in open ground. In consequence of this determination, he drew off his army to a considerable distance from that of Sir Eyre Coote,
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and even abandoned a strong pass on its approach.

Having frustrated the designs of Hyder Ally on the British possessions to the south of Madras, the army now proceeded to the northern, in order to cover the march of a large body of Sepoys that was coming from Bengal to join it. Strengthened by this junction, Sir Eyre Coote laid siege to Trepassore, with an intent to draw Hyder Ally to another action.

This place being of importance, that Prince hastened to its succour accordingly ; but it was taken on the very day of his arrival in sight of it ; on which he retreated to the spot where he had the preceding year defeated Colonel Baillie. Here he disposed his army in much the same manner as he had done on that day ; hoping, perhaps, that the British troops might be drawn into the like difficulties as the unfortunate corps under that officer had been.

In this hope he seemed to have suspended his determination to hazard no action in the field. He prepared for this second trial with his accustomed foresight and care : no advantage of ground was lost, batteries were planted in every place where they could do the most execution, and the posts occupied by his forces were chosen with the utmost judgment.

The disposition of Hyder Ally's army was such, that in their approaching to attack it, the British troops were exposed to a terrible fire from several batteries, in various directions. They closed in, however, upon the enemy, in spite of all obstructions, and assailed them with the same vigour they had done in the preceding engagement.

The remembrance of what had happened on the ground where both armies were now fighting, operated equally upon each ; that of Hyder Ally was thereby animated to contend for the like success ;
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and that of Sir Eyre Coote, to take a signal revenge for that defeat. From these different motives, the conflict between them was carried on during a time unprecedented in any former battle; it continued with unabated ardour and animosity in both parties, from eight in the morning till near dusk.

The victory was decisive in favour of the British army:—That of Hyder Ally was completely routed, and driven from every post it had occupied. This, however, was not effected without the loss of some very brave officers, as well as soldiers, a greater number of whom fell on this occasion than on the former. This was owing to the vast fire of the enemy's artillery, no less than to the duration of the engagement, and the very advantageous position taken by Hyder Ally. This second defeat of this Prince by Sir Eyre Coote, happened on the twenty-seventh of August.

From the long and vigorous resistance of his troops on this day, and the difficulty with which it was won by the English, Hyder Ally conceived hopes, that by degrees his people, through frequent encounters of this kind, would attain to an equality of discipline and resolution with them. In this confidence he ventured, some weeks after this action to stand another battle; but he was defeated with greater loss than in the former.

Undiscouraged by this want of success, Hyder Ally invested a place of great strength and importance, called Vellore, and expecting that the relief of it would be attempted, seized an advantageous pass through which he knew the British troops must take their way. Sir Eyre Coote advanced accordingly with that intent, and found Hyder Ally's army in possession of some very strong grounds on both the sides of a marsh which he was obliged to cross. The numbers of the enemy enabled them to attack him on every part; but it was prin-

principally his rear against which their chief efforts were directed. Here were the baggage and convoy of provisions destined for the besieged, who were now reduced to the greatest extremity. By seizing these, both the British army and garrison would have been equally distressed.

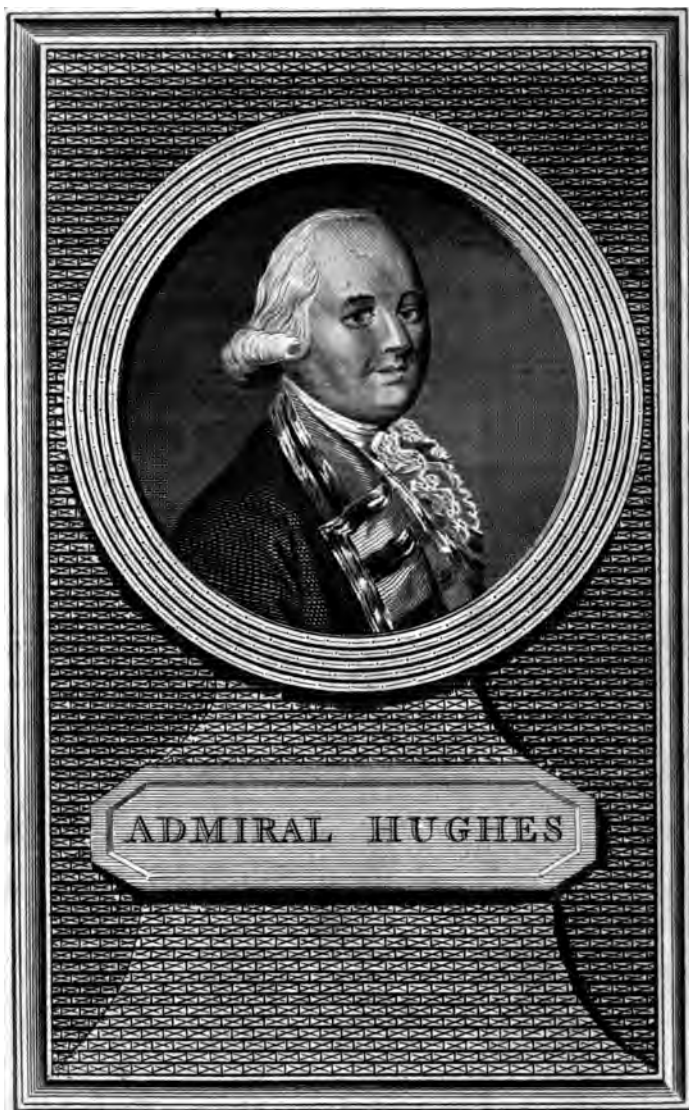
Hyder Ally exerted all his activity to accomplish these purposes; but the spirit of the British troops was such, that they extricated themselves completely from this dangerous pass, and forced their way to Vellore in despite of all obstructions.

Notwithstanding this failure, Hyder Ally still resolved upon another trial. Disposing his army in the same manner as before, he waited the return of the British troops on the same spot. His attack was conducted with great skill and vigour: their flanks and front were assailed at once; and a heavy cannonade maintained during the whole action. It lasted a great part of the afternoon; but terminated with his entire defeat, and with the loss of numbers of his selectest men.

These uninterrupted successes of the British troops in the Carnatic, were attended with the most fortunate consequences to the interest of the East India Company. Among others, it enabled the Presidency at Madras, on receiving intelligence of the rupture between Great Britain and Holland, to undertake an expedition against the principal Dutch settlement on the coast of Coromandel.

This was the important town and harbour of Negapatam, situated to the south of Madras, in the neighbourhood of Tanjour. The danger of its becoming a place of arms for Hyder Ally, and his French allies, were it to remain in the hands of the Dutch, now become enemies to Britain, was too obvious not to endeavour to dispossess them of it, as soon as possible, at the present juncture.

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The charge of carrying on this important enterprise by land, was committed to Sir Hector Munro, While Sir Edward Hughes stationed his squadron so as to intercept all relief by sea. This officer had already given a severe check to Hyder Ally, on the coast of Malabar. That Prince had expended vast sums, and bestowed immense care and labour in the improvement of his two seaports of Calicut and Mangalore in that country. They were his naval arsenals, and contained a considerable number of ships of force; but they were all destroyed by Sir Edward Hughes, to the great vexation of Hyder Ally, who had projected the design of rendering himself no less powerful in India by sea than he was by land.

The undertaking against Negapatam was, however, accompanied with a variety of impediments. The necessity of continually reinforcing the army that was acting in the field against Hyder Ally, had so drained the different garrisons, that a very considerable force could be spared to Sir Hector Munro, for the service proposed. Negapatam was in a strong state of defence, from the fortifications that had lately been added to it; and Hyder Ally foreseeing that it would in all probability be attacked by the English, had dispatched a large body of infantry and cavalry to strengthen the garrison. It consisted, with these reinforcements, of more than eight thousand men, while the number of the besiegers did not amount to five thousand.

After landing the battering cannon from the ships, which was a work of great danger and difficulty, from the roughness of the sea, an attack was made on the lines and redoubts, which the besieged had constructed in the avenues to the town. The seamen that were employed upon this occasion, assailed them with such violence and fury, that the enemy could not withstand them an instant. The dispositions

positions that had been made for a defence were very judicious : an intermixture of horse and foot guarded the lines. Had the assailants given way, their total defeat must have ensued from the pursuit and execution to which they would have been exposed. But so great was the panic with which the valour of the British seamen struck the whole garrison, that the foot ran immediately for shelter in the town, and Hyder Ally's horse fled on the first onset into the adjacent country ; from whence they were either unable or unwilling to return into the town.

Five days after storming the lines, regular approaches were made, and a formidable battery erected ; against which the garrison directed two sallies with all their remaining force ; but they were repulsed with great slaughter. Another battery being constructed, the fire from both operated so effectually, that a breach was soon made, and followed by a preparation for an assault. The Dutch Governor proposed hereupon to surrender on capitulation. The terms granted to him were, That, private property excepted, the town and its dependencies, with whatever appertained to the Dutch government and Company, should be delivered to the English : the garrison to remain prisoners of war, and the Governor and officers in the civil or military departments to be at large on their parole.

The reduction of Negapatam completed the revolution that had begun to take place in the southern provinces on the coast of Coromandel. It not only restored the power and influence of the East India Company in those parts, but raised the reputation and dread of the British arms higher than ever. They had, in the course of this campaign, triumphed successively over Hyder Ally, the French, and the Dutch, united together for their humiliation, and confidently presuming to reduce them to the necessity

necessity of yielding to the superiority with which they were assailed, in every quarter.

The universal failure of every attempt against the English, and the continual good fortune that had attended them this year, made such an impression on many of the Indian princes and chiefs that had submitted to Hyder Ally from fear, or embraced his party from interest, that they now earnestly sought for reconciliation with the English. They now considered them as fully re-established on their former footing of strength, and bidding fair to confirm and encrease it beyond a probability of being shaken.

Hyder Ally himself was equally astonished, and stung with grief at this unexpected return of prosperity to a people, whose greatness he had lately been persuaded was fast declining, and whom, he doubted not, he should be the principal instrument in bringing to ruin, and expelling from India. He now saw his garrisons compelled to evacuate the greatest number of those places they had occupied in the foregoing campaigns, in the rich and important district of Tanjore and its environs. These disappointments sunk deeply into his aspiring and ambitious mind; and though his spirit was too great to admit of despondency, yet he could not fail being powerfully affected by this sudden reverse of fortune.

CHAP. LXIV.

Proceedings in Parliament.—Change of Ministry.

1781, 1782.

THE disaster that had befallen the British arms in America, had closed the campaign in a manner that seemed to put an end to all further hopes of reducing that continent. The force that remained was totally inadequate to such enterprises as would now be necessary to restore the fortune of the war, and replace the interest of Britain on its former footing. The Americans now considered themselves as wholly freed from all apprehensions; and looked upon that event as an epocha from whence they might confidently date the certainty and final confirmation of their independence.

This was not only their own persuasion, but that of all Europe. As soon as the news of the capitulation at York Town arrived in England, a total cessation of hostilities in America became the earnest wish of all parties. Those who had been strenuous advocates for their prosecution, were now convinced that this last misfortune was irreparable; and that it ought to be viewed in the light of an ultimate decision of the American contest.

Such was the general temper of the nation when the Parliament met on the twenty-seventh of November. The members in opposition were loud and vehement in the opinion, that an immediate period should be put to an altercation that had now lasted seven years to no other purpose than to drain the nation of its treasure and its best blood, without attaining any of the ends proposed, and to involve it in a war with all the powers in Europe;
who

who, either openly or clandestinely, were known to abet the Americans, and to exert themselves with their utmost industry for the defeating of the endeavours of Britain to subjugate her refractory Colonies.

Mr. Fox, upon this occasion, went copiously and forcibly into the necessity of acting coolly and dispassionately on so awful a juncture as the present. Surrounded with dangers of the first magnitude; opposed in a manner by the whole world, it was vain to contend against a force which was daily increasing, and against which all the efforts of this country, however great and surprising, could not be supposed, in the nature of things, able to make a successful stand.

He entered into a long investigation of the state and resources of the kingdom, and arraigned with extreme bitterness the conduct of those who presided in the different departments of administration, the naval one especially. He appealed to the conviction of the House, whether any probability subsisted of carrying on the war with any prospect of success, while so many discouraging circumstances attended its prosecution.

It had been recommended in the royal speech, on the opening of the session, to act with vigour and undauntedness in the present crisis, and firmly to continue facing the enemy with unabated exertions. —A debate arose on the meaning of the speech. Opposition alledged, that it was highly improper to concur in any address importing a continuation of the American war, on the plan according to which it had hitherto been conducted. Administration denied, on the other hand, that the address they had moved, intended any more than a resolute maintenance of the national honour and interest, against the numerous enemies of Britain. After a long altercation on this subject, the address was

ried by two hundred and eighteen against one hundred and twenty-nine.

Opposition was however determined to constrain Ministry to be full and explicit on this subject. When a motion was made for the customary Committee of Supply, a warm objection took place to the Speaker's leaving the Chair. It was insisted, that no further confidence could be placed in Administration, till it had pledged itself for a change of those measures which had brought the nation into its present difficulties. The House could not, with any propriety, nor without derogating from its dignity, and abandoning the cause of its constituents, implicitly continue to trust the management of affairs to men, under whom they had been so unprosperous. The voice of the public was unanimous in demanding an alteration of the ruinous system hitherto pursued. It behoved Parliament to listen seriously to the complaints of the people, after so many proofs that they were well founded. As they bore the weight of the distresses occasioned by this unfortunate war, they had just reason to reprobate it, and to petition for its speedy termination.

Administration represented, on the other side, the danger that might attend the refusal of a supply in the present critical posture of affairs. In whatever manner the money granted would be applied, still the granting of it ought not to be delayed, as it would certainly be wanted for the most indispensable purposes. The question, whether it should be appropriated to the prosecution of those measures, which were contradictory to the opinion of opposition, would be agitated in due time, but ought not to be brought forward till provision had been made for the expences that would inevitably be required for the service of the public. The danger it was in, from the multiplicity of its enemies, called for

an unanimous support of its whole strength by land and sea. When the sum necessary for this essential object had been voted, and the safety of the realm thereby been properly consulted, the House would be at leisure to deliberate upon the manner of prosecuting the war to the best advantage.

Opposition, it was insinuated by Ministry, by requiring an assurance that a cessation of hostilities against America should take place, meant at the same time, that a change of Administration should accompany it; but whether this expectation was complied with or disappointed, it was equally for the benefit of the public, that the requisite supplies should be granted, whoever might have the management of them in future.

A variety of collateral matter arose from the discussion of this subject. The right of the people to refuse supplies until the redress of grievances, was argued with much energy; and the inexpediency of withholding them in cases where the security of the realm was at stake, was represented in no less a forcible light. After an ample and animated debate on these subjects, the motion for a Committee of Supply was carried in the affirmative, by one hundred and seventy-two against seventy-seven.

When the question was agitated for voting the specific supplies that would be requisite for the service of the coming year, it was moved by Opposition, that the war carried on in America had been ineffectual to the purposes for which it had been undertaken. It had neither defeated the intentions of those who resisted the authority of Great Britain, nor afforded protection to those who remained loyal. All further attempts to reduce the Americans by force of arms, would therefore be useless and injurious to the interests of Britain, by disabling her to resist the confederacy formed by her ancient and natural enemies.

To this motion, which was seconded with great eloquence and ability by the speakers on the side of Opposition, Administration replied, that it was no longer intended to prosecute hostilities in America on the former plan; and that another system would now be adopted in that respect: but that nevertheless, the motion now before the House was highly unreasonable, as it laid open to the enemy the intentions of the British government, and taught them how to defeat the plans that were to be adopted against them. It was inconsistent with common prudence to desist from all hostilities against the Americans. They were bound by their alliance with France, to assist it against Great Britain; and would therefore act in conformity to their treaties. Such being the case, it was incumbent on government to adopt those measures that would of course be necessary to counteract them. It could not, therefore, be expected, and ought not to be required, that America should be totally relinquished. Were Britain to withdraw her fleets and armies from that Continent, Congress would be at liberty to pursue a line of hostilities extremely pernicious to this country. Were the Americans to become masters of their ports, the seas in that quarter, and in the West Indies, would swarm with their privateers; and they would have it in their power effectually to assist France and Spain in their designed invasion of our islands. An abandonment of North America should not, for these reasons, make any part of the present plan of acting, as it would enable and embolden the Colonists to exert themselves to our detriment. The wisest method would be to steer a middle course. We ought to maintain with vigour the possession of what remained in our hands, and keep a watchful eye on all their motions. This would confine their views at home, and teach them
still

still to view us in the light of an imminent and formidable enemy.

After a long and interesting discussion of this matter, which lasted till two o'clock in the morning, the motion made by Opposition was rejected, by a division of two hundred and twenty to one hundred and seventy-nine.

When the estimates of the army were laid before the House, the foregoing debates were renewed with uncommon vehemence. Opposition took severe notice of the uncertainty and disunion that reigned among the Members of Government; and what little reliance could be placed on the measures they pretended to have in contemplation, from the inconsistency and contradiction of the language held among them.

The same notice was taken by the public; all orders of men began now to reprobate, with unrestrained freedom, any intentions to prosecute the war with America, and to express the most fervent wishes that an accommodation should take place with the Colonies without any farther procrastination.

On the meeting of Parliament after the recess that closed the year eighty-one, a variety of questions, originating from the American war, some of them of the highest importance to the public, were brought into agitation, and canvassed with a degree of animation, that deeply engaged the attention of all parties.

One of the most interesting was the enquiry into the conduct of the naval department; which was moved by Mr. Fox, and supported by him with great eloquence and energy of reasoning. His principal antagonist on this occasion, was Lord Mulcaster, who opposed him with remarkable ingenuity of argument. Lord Howe distinguished himself eminently in this day's debate, by the professional

knowledge he displayed on the subject in litigation.

The contest was at length decided, after having produced a multitude of arguments on each side, by the rejection of the motion proposed. One hundred and eighty-three voted for it; two hundred and five against it.

The advancement of Lord George Germaine to that Peerage, was another ground of contention. It was warmly opposed in the House of Lords, where the part he had taken in the American war exposed him to the heavy censure of Opposition, on a variety of accounts. The question was, however, carried in his favour, by ninety-three votes to twenty-eight.

In the mean time, as administration seemed yet to hesitate about the mode that should be adopted with respect to the future prosecution of the war in America, opposition resolved to make as powerful an effort as possible to constrain them to abandon it. To this intent a motion was made by General Conway, for an address to the throne, requesting that a final termination might be put to hostilities in America, and that a reconciliation might be no longer deferred.

This motion roused all the powers of both parties. All the arguments that had already been adduced on this topic were now repeated. It appeared in the close of this important debate, that the strength of ministry was on its downfall. The address was negatived by the mere majority of one; one hundred and ninety-three appearing for it, and one hundred and ninety-four against it. This happened on the twenty-second of February, eighty-two.

In full confidence of obtaining a decided majority, General Conway renewed his motion five days after. He made a very animated speech on the occasion;

caſion ; wherein he alledged a multiplicity of facts in contradiction to what had been urged on the other ſide againſt the competency of Parliament to interfere, by giving its advice to the Crown in matters relating to the making of peace or war, and in the framing of alliances and treaties with foreign powers :

Among other arguments that were brought to ſhow the prodigious diſadvantage attending an American war, it was aſſerted, that upon the cleareſt computation, France expended no more than forty pounds ſterling for every man ſhe had ſent to the aſſiſtance of the Americans, while Great Britain paid no leſs than one hundred. This alarming difference was enhanced to a degree truly terrifying, when the diſparity of the numbers maintained by the two contending kingdoms was taken into conſideration. At the time of the reduction of the army under Lord Cornwallis, the period at which the French troops were moſt numerous in America, they amounted to no more than eight thouſand men, and at other times had not exceeded five ; while the Britiſh forces on that eſtabliſhment had been paid for at the rate of ſeventy thouſand.

The reply of miniſtry was equally ſtrong and copious. The meaſures in contemplation with regard to America, were repreſented as founded on the moſt obvious expediency. While the Colonies continued at war with this country, it would be highly imprudent to act as if we were at peace with them. It would betray a timorouſneſs and fear of offending them, unworthy of the character of the Britiſh nation. It would expoſe us to their flight ; and, inſtead of accelerating the work of peace, would incline them to treat us with haughtineſs, and to aſſume a ſtile of ſuperiority, which would naturally tend to throw obſtructions in the way

way of the reconciliation that was so much desired by all parties.

Such, it was said, ought henceforth to be the plan of acting with the Americans, as to convince them that though the British nation was willing to be reconciled with the Colonies, yet it was fully determined not to degrade itself by any mean obsequiousness; but, on the contrary, to hold out terms entirely compatible with its honour, as well as advantageous to them; and, in the mean time, to preserve a firm and resolute countenance, equally removed from haughtiness or timidity.

The conclusion of the minister's speech upon this occasion was remarkably striking and spirited.—“If opposition, said he, “had resolved that no more confidence should be placed in the present administration, the readiest way to carry their point would be to address the Crown for their removal. Were he once convinced that he had lost the confidence of the House, he should think it his duty to wait upon his Sovereign, and say to him—“Sir, “I have long served you with diligence, with zeal, “and with fidelity; but success has not crowned “my endeavours. Your Parliament have with- “drawn from me their confidence; all my decla- “rations to them are suspected: therefore, Sir, “let me resign to you those employments which “I ought not to keep longer than I can be ser- “viceable to your Majesty, and your subjects.”

These expressions and sentiments were greatly taken notice of by the public; they were allowed to be truly constitutional, and such as every minister should look up to as the rule of his conduct. Whatever diversity of opinions had been held concerning the administration of Lord North, all parties agreed in declaring their approbation and applause of the manliness and candour he had displayed on this day.

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An endeavour was made, grounded on the importance of the subject in question, to adjourn the debate to another day, in order that leisure might be afforded for every member to give it a cool and dispassionate investigation. This, together with other reasons, was assigned for proposing the delay; but this motion was over-ruled by a majority of nineteen; the votes for it being two hundred and sixteen; those against it two hundred and thirty-five.

The original motion of General Conway for an Address to the Crown against the further continuance of the American war, was then carried without a division; and it was resolved that the address should be presented by the whole House. This total defeat of Ministry took place on the twenty-seventh of February.

The answer received from the throne to the address, was, that in pursuance to the advice of the House, measures would be taken conducive to the restoration of harmony between Great Britain and her colonies; that in the mean time the strength of the nation should be directed in the most effectual manner against our European enemies, till such a peace could be obtained, as should consist with the interest and permanent welfare of the kingdom.

In consequence of the superiority obtained by opposition, General Conway proceeded to move, that the House would consider as enemies to their Sovereign and country, whoever should advise or attempt the prosecution of offensive measures in America, for the purpose of subduing the colonies.

The inducement assigned for this motion was, that Ministry, though it complied with the will of the majority in that House, yet acknowledged that they acted against their own sense of the measures to which they submitted; they could not, therefore

fore be too strongly bound to an obedience; which they paid in contradiction to their judgment.

The Ministerial strength was now so considerably impaired, that hardly any opposition was made to this motion; which was carried without a division.

As notwithstanding the successes gained over Ministry, no dismissal of it appeared to be in agitation, their opponents determined that such a condemnation should be pronounced upon their past measures, as should at once preclude all attempts to renew them. In this view the subsequent resolutions were laid before the House for its approbation:

That since the year seventy-five, upwards of one hundred millions had been expended on the army and navy, in the present fruitless war:

That during this period, Great Britain had lost thirteen colonies in America, and several valuable islands in the West Indies; and that those still remaining in her possession were in imminent danger:

That the nation was now engaged in an expensive war with America, France, Spain, and Holland, without a single ally:

That the chief cause of all these misfortunes had been the want of foresight and abilities of persons in administration:

The moving of these resolutions occasioned one of the warmest and most acrimonious debates that ever happened in the House of Commons. The three first resolutions were self-evident, but the fourth admitted of so much discussion, that it employed all the acuteness of which both parties were masters, to support their respective opinions and assertions on this matter.

The obvious intention of the Opposition being, however, to remove the present Ministry, much of the altercation hinged upon this subject. The House was called upon by Ministers to weigh with candour

candour and impartiality the merits of those who were known to be the most likely to succeed them. Would it consent to the measures they had so often avowed, and so strongly recommended? Would it acknowledge the independence of America, and adopt those many alterations at home that were to give a new face to the constitution and government of this country?

Much had opposition complained of the disunion and discord that subsisted between the members of administration; but was there more harmony among those of the adverse party? Did they not most widely differ in their political sentiments; or did they agree in any thing, except in opposing Ministry?

The reply to these charges was equally severe. The constant unaltered series of disappointments that had attended every ministerial measure since the commencement of the American dispute, was held out as an unanswerable proof that their system was founded in error: but their inflexible adherence to it, after repeated admonitions and experience of its inefficacy, rendered them unpardonable; it was adding obstinacy to incapacity, and shewed them to be absolutely incorrigible.

A variety of taunts and personalities took place in the course of this debate, which lasted till two o'clock in the morning, when the resolutions were set aside by a motion for the order of the day; which was carried in favour of ministry.

Notwithstanding the framing of a new ministry was looked upon as a matter of propriety, amidst the discontents universally prevailing, yet the generality of people were desirous of a coalition among all parties, and that no particular set of men should ingross all power to themselves. This was especially the wish of those who were considered as the independent part of the House.

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In the disputes that arose on this topic, Lord North conducted himself with remarkable temper and moderation. He concluded an eloquent and elaborate defence of his administration, by declaring, "That he neither was, nor would be any obstacle to a coalition of parties, or to the formation of a new ministry, from which he might even be totally excluded."

It was moved, on the other hand, by Opposition, in the most resolute and peremptory manner, that no further trust should be reposed in the present members of administration.

Never had the House of Commons been so full during the course of many years as on the debating of this interesting question; no less than four hundred and eighty members were present. After a violent contest, it was rejected by a majority of nine only.

So inconsiderable a majority on a question of such magnitude, and wherein the ministers were so directly and personally attacked, was like a signal to renew the charge against them. Notice was given accordingly, that the motion would be repeated.

On the twentieth of March the House being met, and opposition preparing to renew it, Lord North informed the members that such a motion was become unnecessary, as the administration, against which it was levelled, did no longer exist, the King having determined to change it. He moved in consequence for an adjournment, that leisure might be given for the formation of a new one.

After obtaining the House's compliance with this motion, he took a solemn leave of it in quality of minister. His speech on this occasion was equally decent and pathetic, and highly approved of by his audience. He concluded it by signifying, that he was both ready and desirous to encounter the strictest trial of his conduct.

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The ministry substituted in the place of that of which Lord North had so long been the head, was composed of the Marquis of Rockingham, First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Shelburne and Mr. Fox, Secretaries of State; Lord Camden, President of the Council; the Duke of Grafton, Privy Seal; Lord John Cavendish, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Admiral Keppel, First Commissioner of the Admiralty; General Conway, Commander in Chief of the Forces; the Duke of Richmond, Master General of the Ordnance.

Two peerages were created on this occasion:— One in favour of Admiral Keppel, who was raised to the title of Viscount; the other in favour of Mr. Dunning, who was made a Baron, by the name of Lord Ashburton. The dignity of High Chancellor still remained with its present possessor, Lord Thurlow, whose uncommon influence and abilities had secured him the respect of both parties.

The first step of public consequence taken by the new ministry, was to remove the cause of those jealousies that had so long subsisted in Ireland, by procuring the repeal of such acts as were most obnoxious and oppressive to that kingdom. The consequence of this measure was an immediate vote of the Irish Parliament for the raising of twenty thousand seamen for the service of the British navy.

The next step was to disqualify revenue officers from voting at parliamentary elections, and to render contractors incapable of possessing a seat in the House of Commons. These three acts were extremely acceptable to the public.

Mr. Burke, who had in this change of administration been appointed Pay Master General of the forces, now resumed the plan he had proposed for the regulation of the Civil List; a number of sinecure places were thereby abolished, and a considerable

able sum was saved, which had heretofore been employed as the means of improper influence.

He gave, at the same time, a signal proof of his disinterestedness, by the reform he introduced into the office he possessed. It had been justly deemed the most lucrative in the kingdom; but he reduced it within reasonable bounds, by retrenching the enormous profits which had hitherto attended it.

Another popular act was, the rescinding from the Journals of the House of Commons, the resolution passed in the year sixty-nine, regarding the election of Mr. Wilkes to represent the county of Middlesex. That gentleman had laboured for years to compass this point; but his annual efforts to this purpose had been successively defeated till the present period, when his motion to this intent met at length with the completest success. It was carried by one hundred and fifteen votes against forty-seven.

The endeavours of Mr. William Pitt, to bring about a Reform in the Constitution of Parliament, did not however meet with the reception which the majority of the public had so ardently desired, and which many so confidently expected. In order to qualify a subject, wherein so much caution was necessary, and to reconcile the views of all who were interested in this matter, he moved, "That a Committee should be appointed, to inquire into the state of the Representation in Parliament, and to report their sentiments upon it." He seconded his motion with great accuracy and strength of reasoning, and was ably supported by Sir George Saville, Mr. Fox, Mr. Sawbridge, and several others: but on a division, the motion was negatived by a majority of one hundred and sixty-one to one hundred and forty-one.

Various other designs were in agitation for the service of the public, when they were interrupted by

by the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, on the first of July. This event occasioned a variety of resignations and new arrangements. Lord Shelburne succeeded him at the Treasury Board, Lord Grantham and Mr. Thomas Townshend were appointed Secretaries of State, and Mr. William Pitt was raised to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer.

Much variance and altercation arose in both Houses of Parliament, in consequence of these appointments. Mr. Fox was heavily censured for having withdrawn himself from the service of the public, at a time when his abilities might have been so useful. It was insinuated that private pique had influenced his conduct, and that he had retired from Administration on account of its not submitting to his directions.

His answer to these charges was, that it did not become a man of integrity to remain in place with those of whom he disapproved the measures. He was precisely in that situation. He was not the only person, however, who differed from those who still retained their places. Those who had seceded with him, were men of unimpeachable character, as well as unquestionable abilities. His ambition was to merit the approbation of the public : this was the highest summit of his wishes ; but sooner than coincide with opinions which he condemned, he would relinquish any post, however it might exalt him in the eyes of the multitude. He asserted, that before the demise of Lord Rockingham, he had openly signified his determination of resigning, if he could not prevail on the Cabinet to follow certain measures which he deemed indispensable in the present juncture. These measures being refused, and others adopted, which, in his judgment, were incompatible with the true interest of the public, he considered himself as bound by

all the rules of honour, and the principles he professed, and had so zealously recommended upon former occasions, to decline acting any longer with men, whose maxims and measures he could not bring himself to approve.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Shelburne defended with great ability the system he had adopted, as well as the arrangements that had lately been taken. He strongly expressed himself firmly attached to the principles on which that ministry had been formed, at the head of which Lord Rockingham had presided. But he could not yield himself implicitly to the guidance of any man.—He had been taught by the great Lord Chatham, that no faction ought to be suffered to rule in this country: much less ought any individual to be permitted to dictate.

These unhappy variances among those who were considered as the most popular persons in the kingdom, rendered the death of the Marquis of Rockingham an object of great lamentation to the majority of the people. His personal character and the extensive influence he possessed, gave him a weight which kept on a due poise the jars and bickerings of the party of which he was the leader. Deprived of the chief who held them together, it was not surprising that they should become divided, and differ about those questions which his authority, and the deference that was paid to his opinions, had alone been able to decide.

These differences happening on the close of the session, prefiged in the minds of many, a material alteration in the measures that would be uppermost in that which would ensue next winter. The leisure that would be afforded by the length of the recess, would, in their apprehension, be productive of opportunities to work a change in the disposition of men, and overset those resolutions and designs which they had begun to unfold.

C H A P. LXV.

Loss of Minorca—Statia—and St. Christopher.—Victory obtained by Admiral Rodney over the French Fleet in the West Indies.

1782.

THE sieges of Gibraltar and Minorca were still carried on by the united forces of the House of Bourbon, with the utmost spirit and activity; and both places defended with unabated firmness and obstinacy by their respective garrisons. But Minorca was evidently in the greatest danger, from the facility with which the enemy could provide reinforcements and supplies, and the difficulty of conveying any relief to the besieged.

The Courts of Versailles and Madrid, however they might consider the reduction of Gibraltar as dubious, entertained no doubt of being able to reduce Minorca. In order to justify the expectation of both the French and Spanish nations, every possible measure was taken to give success to this enterprise. The army that besieged the place was little short of twenty thousand men, and consisted of chosen troops. The battering train was prodigious, amounting to near one hundred and twenty cannon, and forty mortar pieces of the largest dimensions. The most expert engineers in France conducted the attacks; and one of their best and bravest Generals commanded their army.

The garrison amounted, on the other hand, to no more than two thousand seven hundred men; five hundred of these had been drafted from the corps of invalids in England, and sent to this island seven years before.

The strength of the works they had to defend was remarkable. The approaches to the fortresses were every-where undermined, and the constructions to cover them within were bomb-proof. But all these were so spacious, and in such number, that twice the garrison they now contained would not have sufficed to man them.

The commencement of the siege was marked by an incident highly honourable to General Murray, the Governor. Impatient to have possession of this important fortress, the Court of Spain endeavoured, through the offer of an immense bribe, to corrupt that officer's fidelity. The answer he returned to the Duke of Crillon, who had been commissioned to make this trial, was striking. He gave him to understand, that when the most illustrious of his ancestors had been tempted by his sovereign to assassinate his refractory and rebellious subject, the Duke of Guise, he nobly disdained such an office; and that he himself should, after this precedent, have refused to attempt the seduction of a man of honour.

From the landing of the enemy in August, to the beginning of November, no material event took place: the fire, though spirited on both sides, doing no considerable damage, and the besiegers being chiefly occupied in constructing their heavier batteries, and preparing to make their closer approaches. About this time a sally was made on the Duke of Crillon's head-quarters, with so much vigour, and was so judiciously conducted, that he was compelled to abandon them, with the loss of a number of prisoners. The whole army of the besiegers was brought forward on this occasion to dislodge the British troops; but their disposition and countenance were such, that the Duke did not think proper to attack them; and they had the honour of
main-

maintaining the post they had seized during a whole day, and of retiring unmolested.

The batteries of cannon erected by the enemy, though served with great courage and expertness, had not hitherto done any essential execution. They had now lain upwards of three months before the place; and it was expected, both in France and Spain, that they would have mastered it before this time, with so many advantages on their side. It was not, however, sooner than this period that they had perfected their batteries of mortar-pieces, and began to open them.

The fire of the besieged had during this time been kept up with a vivacity which had much retarded the works of the enemy. As soon as their bomb-batteries were constructed, the garrison directed their efforts chiefly to the destruction of these. Their shells frequently fell upon the enemy's magazines of gunpowder, and blew them up, with a considerable destruction of their people; nor did their shipping escape; several of their vessels being sunk, or set on fire, by the cannon or bombs from the garrison.

But notwithstanding the resolution and skill displayed by the besieged, the superiority they had to contend with, in respect to artillery and numbers, was so great, that they alone were sufficient to put their fortitude to the utmost trial.

It has, however, by adequate and impartial judges been asserted, that had no other causes intervened, the siege of Minorca would have terminated as gloriously as that of Gibraltar, and the enemy been obliged to relinquish the attempt.

But while the French and Spanish armies were investing it from without, a far more dreadful and dangerous enemy had taken possession of the place within, and committed such ravages among the

besieged, as were much more destructive than those they suffered from the exertions of the enemy.

The communication with the country being entirely cut off, no supplies of vegetables could be conveyed to the garrison. They were reduced to the necessity of subsisting on salt provisions. Tho' they were furnished with these, and with all such necessaries as admit of preservation, in the greatest abundance, the want of vegetable food was an evil that proved without a remedy.

Most of the troops that composed the garrison, having been long stationed in the island, had accustomed themselves to a constant and regular use of vegetable diet. The sudden deprivation of a species of food, to which they were become habituated, proved such a stroke to their constitutions, as they were unable to stand. Among other complaints, it produced that most terrible and fatal one to men confined in ships and garrisons, the Scurvy. It increased in a short time to such a deplorable degree, as to baffle all endeavours to suppress or alleviate its effects. They were so powerful and rapid, that every day diminished the strength of the garrison, by the numbers that either fell victims to this severe malady, or were disabled by it from doing duty. What contributed greatly to its progress, was the inclosed and narrow space to which they were confined, and the necessity to which they were compelled of living in the casemates, and places under ground, in order to shelter themselves from the dreadful and incessant showers of shot and shells that fell day and night upon every part of the fortress.

This continual fire, under the direction of a numerous and expert body of engineers, could not fail to make an effectual impression on a spot of so limited an extent. The upper works suffered considerably, and numbers of guns were dismounted ;
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but the resolution of the besieged would have surmounted all these difficulties, had not the terrible calamity that raged within their walls rendered them insuperable.

In the midst of this severe trial, their constancy and perseverance were invincible. Such was the zeal they felt for the honour of the British name (to use their own expression) that many of the common soldiers, though on the point of death, concealed their condition from their officers, in order to have the consolation, as they said, of expiring upon duty with their arms in their hands.

The state of the garrison was, in the commencement of February eighty-two, so enfeebled, that the whole number able to do duty, amounted to no more than six hundred and sixty; and of these, scarcely an hundred were untainted with the scurvy. From the concurrent testimony of the physicians and surgeons, it appeared that, in a very few days, there might not probably be left a single soldier in a condition to bear arms.

In the mean time, the necessary guards required four hundred and fifteen men. Hence it was evident, that if they could not be regularly relieved, illness and fatigue would speedily overcome them. In this extremity Governor Murray proposed terms of capitulation, by which the garrison might be permitted to preserve their liberty, on surrendering the place: But the Duke of Crillon informed him, that his orders were to listen to no capitulation, but under the express condition that the garrison should remain prisoners of war.

To soften however the rigour of his instructions, he allowed them to return to England, on General Murray's engaging that they should not serve again during the war, till regularly exchanged.

Every other concession was granted that could be required or expected. To the honour of the

French commander, he seemed to feel a peculiar satisfaction in expressing the highest sense of respect for the Governor, and the troops under his command.

In the first article of the capitulation, General Murray demanded that, as the garrison must surrender prisoners, they should be allowed all the honours of war. This, it was added, was not contrary to his instructions, and would tend to his glory; as certainly no troops ever gave greater proofs of heroism, having defended themselves almost to the last man.

The Duke's answer testified the readiest and most generous assent to the General's assertion; and expressly specified, "that, in consideration of the constancy and valour which he and his men had shewn in their brave defence, they should receive all the military honours consistent with their situation."

On the fifth of February the fortress of St. Philip was delivered up to the combined forces of France and Spain. Perhaps, says General Murray, in his letter upon this occasion, a more noble nor tragical scene was seldom exhibited, than the march of its garrison through the French and Spanish armies. It consisted of no more than six hundred old decrepid soldiers, two hundred seamen, one hundred and twenty of the Royal Artillery, and about fifty Corsicans, Greeks, and others. The two armies were drawn up fronting each other, and formed a lane for the garrison to pass through, reaching from St. Philip to George-Town. Here the garrison laid down their arms, declaring they had surrendered them to God alone; and that the conquerors could only boast they had taken an hospital.

Such was the distressful figure of the British troops, that many of the French and Spaniards,
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it was said, shed tears as they passed them. The humanity of the Duke of Crillon, and of his officers, was highly conspicuous on this occasion. No kind of relief was left unfought for the assistance of the sickly remains of the garrison. Every possible care and attention was paid to them; and they were treated with every mark of respect and sympathy which could be expected from a generous conqueror.

Thus did the island of Minorca return to the dominion of Spain, after it had been in the possession of Great Britain since the year seventeen hundred and eight, when it was taken by Sir John Leake and General (afterwards Earl) Stanhope; and had, together with Gibraltar, been considered as one of the noblest trophies, and most valuable acquisitions to Britain, during the triumphant reign of Queen Anne.

The loss of Minorca in Europe, was accompanied by events of the like nature in other parts, that marked the close of the year eighty-one, and the beginning of eighty-two, as a period highly unpropitious to Britain.

The success which the French had met with, during the preceding summer, in reducing Tobago, induced them to cast their eyes on the other British islands in the Indian seas, with a view of attacking them at a convenient opportunity. They seemed, however, too well guarded at the time to afford them any hope of succeeding. The only one upon which, after much consultation, they ventured to make an attempt, was that of Statia, which had been taken from the Dutch at the commencement of the year, and of which they were informed the garrison thought itself in a state of perfect security from any enemy, on account of the difficulty of its access.

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The Marquis de Bouille, upon receiving this information, determined to improve the opportunity it offered of reducing that island by surprise. He sailed from Martinico at the head of two thousand men, and arrived in the night of the twenty-sixth of November, off a landing-place at Statia, which was so dangerous, that being looked upon as impracticable, it had been neglected and left without a guard. Here, with much toil and exertion, and with the loss of many boats and people, he found means to set ashore about four or five hundred of his men: But even this effort took up the whole of the night; and the appearance of day put a stop to his landing any more. He now saw himself obliged to take an immediate decision, either to surrender to the garrison, or to hazard the attacking it, though almost double his numbers. No other choice remained, as all means of retreat were cut off. He took the last, and marched with all diligence, in order to surprise the garrison, before they should receive any intelligence of an enemy being ashore.

The place where he landed was six miles distant from the town and fort; and, in the line of his march, he had a narrow defile to pass; which, if a few men could have occupied, his whole scheme would at once have been frustrated. But his good fortune served him so effectually, that this important pass was unguarded. He arrived in time to secure it, and instantly pushed forward with all imaginable speed.

A body of Irish troops, in the service of France, were the principal actors on this occasion. They were commanded by Count Dillon, who used such diligence, that he arrived at the town before six in the morning. A party belonging to the garrison was at this time exercising on the parade. Mistaking the Irish, from the similitude of their uniform,
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for their own people, they suffered them to approach so near, that the mistake was not discovered till a close discharge had been made by the enemy, which killed and wounded many.

The suddenness of the surprise throwing them immediately into disorder, they were totally disabled from making any resistance. Colonel Cockburn, commanding-officer of the garrison, happening at the instant to come upon the parade, was made prisoner. Numbers of the garrison hastened in the mean while to the fort, in hope of making an effectual stand there against the enemy. But the French had already taken possession of the gate, and prevented the draw-bridge from being raised. — They entered the fort, which being surrendered to them by those who had taken shelter in it, the remainder of the garrison, which was dispersed in various places, when apprized of this, imagined the enemy's strength to be very considerable, and too great to be resisted. In this persuasion they submitted, without further opposition.

The manner in which the island of Statia was retaken, though it reflected no disgrace on the valour of the British troops, could not fail to cast a shade on that military vigilance and circumspection which had hitherto characterised them. Their signal deficiency in these essential requisites in war, upon this occasion, exposed them to universal and well merited censure.

It was with peculiar satisfaction the Marquis of Bouille took this opportunity of signalising his disinterestedness in pecuniary matters. Among the spoils that fell into his hands, a large sum of money was claimed by the British commanding-officer, as being his private property : this was generously restored him by the Marquis ; who caused, in the same manner, whatever had belonged to Dutch individuals, to be reserved, in order to be returned to
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them, and suffered nothing to be seized but the produce arising from the sale of the prizes that had been taken by the English when they captured the island.

The opening of the ensuing year was no less unfavourable to the English on the continent of South America; where the settlements of Demerary and Iſſequibo, of which they had deprived the Dutch in the beginning of the preceding year, were now retaken by the French.

But these successes of its ancient enemy, though sufficiently mortifying to the British nation, were quickly followed by an attempt of much more importance. The enterprising disposition of the Marquis de Bouille, had long turned his views to the subjugation of the rich island of St. Christopher, once the joint possession of both the French and English, till the victorious arms of the latter expelled the former at the commencement of this present century.

Exclusive of the value of this fertile isle, other motives offered themselves to the marquis. He knew that numbers of the inhabitants were highly dissatisfied at the seizure of their property on the taking Statia from the Dutch. He was also well acquainted with their disapprobation of the general conduct of the British government, and that many of them did not scruple to express the most bitter resentment on these various accounts.

Expecting justly to meet with little resistance from a discontented people, he formed the project of attacking this island, while the causes of their complaints were still fresh in their remembrance.— Nor was it otherwise in a condition for a vigorous defence. The garrison consisted of no more than six hundred effective regulars; while the force that was destined to attack it amounted to eight thousand excellent troops; and the fleet to accompany them

them and cover the siege, was composed of thirty-two ships of the line, commanded by Count de Grasse, whom his valour and good fortune in North America, during the preceding campaign, had now rendered a very formidable enemy.

The only place of strength in the island was Brimstone Hill, situated on the shore, near the town of Sandy Point, which it overlooks and commands. Some fortifications had been lately constructed on the summit of that hill; but its natural strength was its best security, being of great height, and of so difficult an access, from its steepness, and the ruggedness of the paths leading to it, that an ascent was almost impracticable against a very moderate force to defend it.

On the landing of the French army, which from the greatness of its force could not be prevented, nor even opposed with safety, General Frazer, the commanding-officer, retired to Brimstone Hill.—The whole of his strength, besides the regulars above-mentioned, did not exceed four hundred militia, brought to his assistance by Governor Shirley. But twice the number that composed the garrison would have hardly sufficed for a proper defence.

The French having made good their landing at Basseterre, the principal town in the island, advanced immediately to Brimstone Hill, which they closely invested on every side. The ill fortune of the besieged was instanced upon this occasion in a most remarkable manner. Eight brass twenty-four pounders, with six thousand balls of corresponding weight and two large brass mortars, with fifteen hundred shells, had been carried to the bottom of the hill, with an intent to convey them to the summit; but through some cause that never came to light, they were left in that situation. When the enemy were landed, it was too late to secure them; and they fell into the hands of the French, who, without
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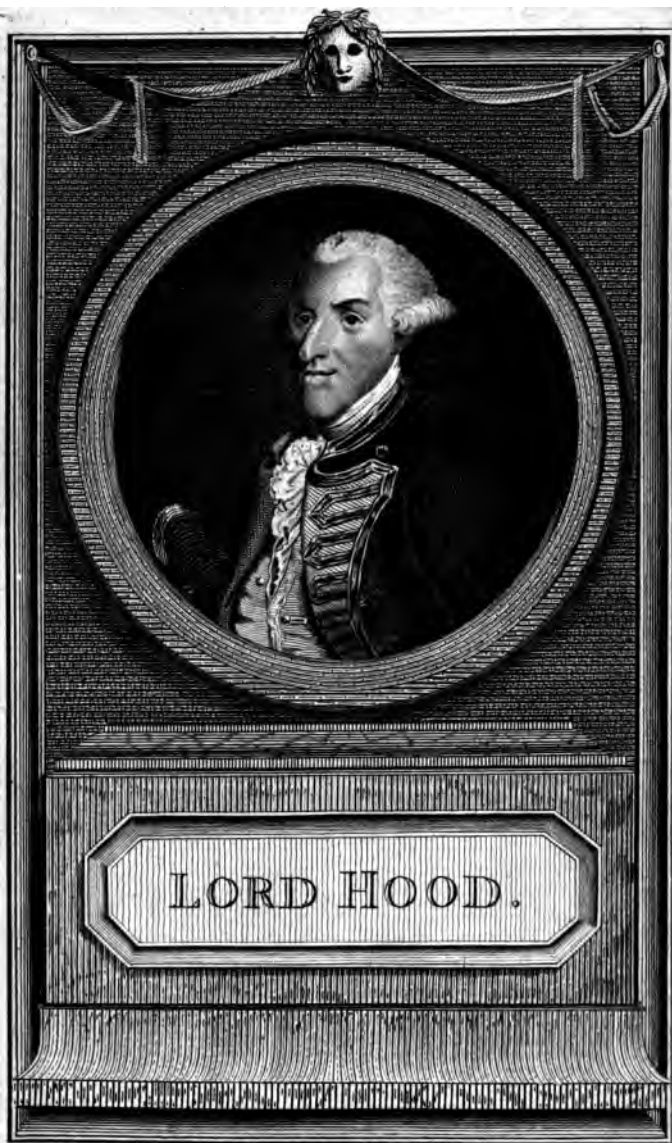
this unexpected supply, would have been greatly retarded in their operations. One of their store-ships, loaded with the principal materials for a siege, had been wrecked on the rocks near the shore; and another, of equal consequence, had been captured by the squadron under Admiral Hood.

This vigilant and enterprizing officer lay at this time at Barbadoes, against which the French first intended to direct their motions, but had been prevented by contrary winds. The moment he was apprized of their design upon St. Christopher, he hastened to Antigua, where, taking on board all the troops that could be spared, he steered directly for Basse-terre, where the French fleet was at anchor, with a determination to attack it, though it consisted of thirty-two ships of the line, and his own only twenty-two: but the confidence he reposed in the capacity and courage of his officers and men, made him overlook all disadvantages.

Arriving off Nevis on the morning of the twenty-fourth of January, he ordered the line of battle to be formed; but was prevented from the prosecution of his intent, by the damage two of his capital ships received in running foul upon each other. — This accident afforded time to Count de Grasse to put to sea, and make his preparations for an engagement.

On the twenty-fifth, at day-break, both fleets being in sight, Admiral Hood, in order to compass the point he had in view, which was to get between the enemy and the island, still preserved the appearance of an attack upon the French, to the end of drawing them further out to sea. The stratagem succeeded; and as soon as the British Admiral had a fair prospect of gaining the anchorage left by the enemy, he pushed for it with all diligence, and took possession of it. This was undoubtedly
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From a Painting by West in the Possession of Sir John Dick.

Miller del. Published June 21. 1785. by J. Kielding Paternoster Row. Birchall sculp.

in the Admiral's own words) the only chance he had of saving the island, if it could be saved.

Count de Grasse, on perceiving his intent, endeavoured to prevent him, by cutting off his rear; but Commodore Affleck, assisted by his two seconds, Captain Cornwallis and Lord Robert Manners, received him with so vigorous a fire, that his attempt was totally frustrated, with great loss of men on his side, and very little damage on the other.

Next day the French fleet renewed its attack on the British from van to rear, with its whole force. The conflict lasted two hours, and was maintained with great spirit by the enemy; but they could not make any impression. After sheering off, they returned in the afternoon, and made a second attempt, but as ineffectual as the first.

In consequence of these two repulses, the enemy kept aloof, and left the British Squadron in quiet possession of the position it had taken. Their loss in these two engagements was very considerable.—The number of slain must have been great, as no less than a thousand of their wounded were sent ashore to St. John's. Many of their ships were much damaged: the *Ville de Paris*, Count de Grasse's own ship, had upwards of eighty shot-holes; and lay during the next day on the heel, employed in repairing them.

The conduct of Admiral Hood, throughout this remarkable transaction, was considered by the ablest judges in these matters, as one of the greatest professional exertions that had happened during the whole war. It struck the enemy with the highest admiration of his abilities, and with no little apprehensions of them: it served to confirm the impartial world in the opinion it had formed, that the naval genius of Britain would render her an overmatch for all her enemies.

In the mean time, the French were carrying on their operations against Brimstone Hill with great
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courage and activity. They erected a number of batteries, of heavy cannon and mortars, on every spot of ground from whence it could be annoyed.— They had established their head-quarters at the town of Sandy Point; but it was soon reduced to ashes by the fire of the besieged.

The fatigue undergone by the French was excessive, from the heat of the climate, and the necessity they were under of dragging their heavy artillery to the eminences on which it was to be placed. They were exposed to an incessant fire from the garrison, who incommoded them severely in all their approaches, and did such execution among them, that they dearly purchased every inch of ground they were able to gain.

In order to obtain information of the situation and circumstances of the garrison at Brimstone Hill, two officers, the one belonging to the navy, the other to the army, both of them resolute and intelligent men, were dispatched on shore, and found means, through many difficulties, to execute their commission. The message they brought back from General Frazer, was in the stile of the old warriors in the days of the Edwards and Henries: General Prescott had sent him word of his arrival with succours; to which the blunt and gallant veteran replied, that as he had taken the trouble to come with troops to his assistance, he should, doubtless, be glad to see him; but that he was in no want of him or them.

This spirited message induced the British commanders to land a body of troops; in order, if practicable, to seize on some post that might enable them to impede the enemy's operations. An engagement ensued as soon as they were put ashore, wherein they had the advantage. Next day the Marquis de Bouille advanced upon them, at the head of four thousand men; but found General Prescott

Prescot so advantageously posted, that he retired without attacking him, and contented himself with making such arrangements as were necessary to secure his own troops from being molested in their operations against the garrison.

As the vast superiority of the enemy rendered an attempt upon them impracticable, the detachment on shore was withdrawn. Still, however, the garrison continued its defence with unabated resolution, in hope, that as soon as sufficient reinforcements arrived, they would immediately proceed to their assistance. In this view they supported the hardships and continual toil that were daily encreasing, with singular perseverance and fortitude.

The French had by this time surrounded them, in a manner, with batteries of cannon and mortars, from which they plied them night and day with an incessant shower of shot and shells. This terrible operation continued three weeks; during which, all the constructions of every kind upon the hill were entirely destroyed, and the garrison deprived of all shelter.

On the eighth of February they made their distress known to the British commanders on board the fleet, by means of the signals agreed upon. The utmost endeavours were in consequence used, to inform them that, if possibly they could hold out ten days longer, it was highly probable the island would be saved; as the motions of the French Admiral, and proceedings on shore of the Marquis de Bouille, indicated a despair of success, and an intention to relinquish the enterprize.

The various efforts that were made to convey this intelligence to the besieged all miscarried, to the great mortification of Admiral Hood, who left no expedient untried that could be devised, to accomplish a purpose he had so much at heart, and from whence so much was expected.

The siege had now lasted five weeks. Harassed by unceasing fatigue, the remains of the garrison were unable to withstand any longer the intolerable duty that was now imposed upon them of being under arms both day and night. Their number was so reduced, that it would have been impossible to resist an assault; and this was hourly looked for, from the total demolition of the works in most places, and almost all the guns being either dismounted or disabled.

In this extremity it was thought necessary to capitulate. The generosity the Marquis de Bouille had displayed upon similar occasions, was a sufficient inducement to afford the garrison ample expectation of being treated with all manner of indulgence. But he was prompted by additional motives to grant them every request they could make, in order to secure, as soon as possible, the possession of the island. The arrival of Admiral Rodney was daily expected, together with such a naval reinforcement as would place the British fleet upon a full equality at least, if not a superiority, to the French.

From these considerations, the terms of the capitulation were favourable in the highest degree.— They were the same in regard to the inhabitants, as those granted to the island of Dominica; and the garrison, besides the honours of war, was permitted to return to England, on condition of not serving against France or its allies till exchanged.

The Marquis de Bouille, with a magnanimity that added new lustre to his character, complimented Governor Shirley and General Frazer with their personal liberty. His expressions in that article of the capitulation which specified this favour, did equal honour both to him and those gentlemen.

“Out of respect,” he said, “to the courage and determined conduct of Generals Shirley and Frazer,

Frazer, it is agreed that they shall not be considered as prisoners of war; the former may return to his government of Antigua, and the latter may continue in the service of his country; being happy to testify this mark of particular esteem for those two brave officers."

The reduction of St. Christopher took place on the thirteenth day of February, in the year eighty-two.

On the next day the French fleet anchoring off the island of Nevis, Admiral Hood judged it advisable to leave the road of Basseterre, in order to preserve his ships in a fit condition for service on the junction of Admiral Rodney, of which he was now in daily expectation. The present superiority of Count de Grasse rendered all further naval enterprises imprudent, until the arrival of the reinforcement under that commander.

In order to dislodge the British squadron, the French, as soon as they were in possession of St. Christopher, began to erect batteries of guns and mortars on a height that commanded the road. The consideration of the impossibility of resisting the united attack that was preparing against him, both by land and sea, together with the want of water and refreshments, hastened his departure to Bardadoes; where he determined to station his squadron, and watch the motions of the enemy.

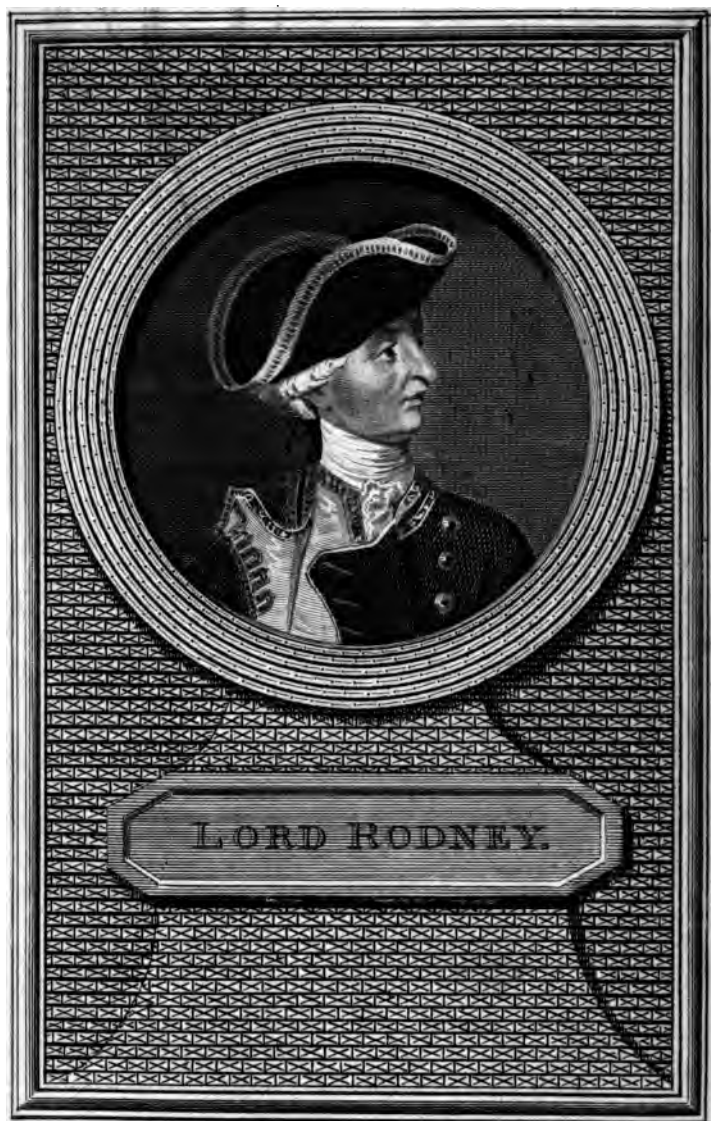
The French did not, however, obtain the success they had met with at St. Christopher, without a considerable loss of men. Exclusive of those who fell in the engagements with the British squadron, above a thousand were slain in the siege of Brimstone Hill, besides the much greater numbers that were wounded, and whose recovery in a climate so inimical to European constitutions as the West Indies have constantly proved, was, of course, very

doubtful, and required uncommon care, as well as length of time.

The fortune of the French seemed at this period to be settled on so firm a foundation in this part of the world, that no accidents were apprehended by them of a nature to effect an alteration to their disadvantage. Their islands were full of as excellent troops as France had been able to furnish for the expeditions it had projected against the British settlements in the West Indies. The exertions of Spain to the same intent were also very formidable. Never in this quarter of the globe had the strength of those two potent monarchies been so conspicuously displayed. Their naval list was computed at more than three-score ships of the line. These were attended with a prodigious multitude of frigates and armed vessels. With this immense force they entertained no doubt of being able to make an entire conquest of the British possessions in that hemisphere.

In the mean time the British ministry, fully sensible of the danger to which they were exposed, was preparing a strong squadron for their relief. It consisted of fifteen capital ships, and was commanded by Sir George Rodney. It arrived at Barbadoes on the nineteenth of February, where he formed the long-desired junction with Sir Samuel Hood. The British fleet now consisting of thirty-seven ships of the line, both Admirals determined to put to sea, and intercept the convoy of provisions, stores, and ammunition, that was on its way from Brest to Martinico, for the supply of Count de Grasse's fleet. But notwithstanding the judiciousness of their dispositions, the convoy had the address to elude them, by dropping to leeward of the British fleet during the night, and sailing round Guadaloupe; from whence, keeping close with the land of Dominica, it arrived safe in the bay of Port Royal.

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In consequence of this disappointment, Admiral Rodney repaired to St. Lucia, where he took in provisions for five or six months, with a determination to follow the French fleet the moment it sailed out of Martinico, wherever it should direct its course. In this view, a number of frigates were stationed off that island, to give notice of its departure.

The design of the French Admiral was to proceed with all diligence to Hispaniola, where Don Solano was waiting for him with sixteen ships of the line, and a numerous body of land forces. These, added to the French fleet and troops, were to have formed a joint attack upon the island of Jamaica. With this object before him, he made it his utmost care to avoid an engagement with the English till he had joined the Spanish fleet, when, from the superiority he should then possess, he would be under no apprehensions of meeting with any effectual obstruction to the projects he was commissioned to execute.

The great importance of preventing this junction, and of forcing him to an engagement before it took place, was obvious to the British Admiral. Until this had been effected, the islands yet belonging to Britain could not look upon their condition as secure.

To the great satisfaction of the British commanders, they were informed early in the morning of the eighth of April, by the signals made from the frigates of observation, that the French fleet was getting under way, and steering to leeward. Admiral Rodney stood immediately after the enemy, and came up with them, off Dominica, towards the evening. A calm prevented any motion in either fleet till the next day, when the enemy, favoured by a breeze, made for Guadaloupe. The van of the British fleet receiving the wind soon after, fol-

lowed them with all diligence, and fetched them near enough to engage. Count de Grasse eagerly seized the opportunity of attacking this division of the British fleet, while so far separated from the rest; but Sir Samuel Hood, who commanded it, withstood him with a firmness and order which the enemy, tho' he bore down upon him with his whole strength, could not discompose. He had at one time no less than seven ships upon him. It was noon before there was a sufficiency of wind to carry part of the British center to the support of the van.

Out of thirty-six ships, of which the British fleet consisted on this occasion, only twenty could come into action: but such was the skill and gallantry with which they maintained so unequal a conflict, that notwithstanding Count de Grasse's whole fleet, consisting of thirty-four sail of the line, lay upon them, the damages it received were far greater than those it occasioned. The principal loss was that of Captain Bayne of the *Alfred*, an officer of great merit.

The British rear edging up at length to the center, the French Admiral drew his ships out of action, and continued to keep at such a distance as defeated all endeavours to near him.

The tenth and eleventh were spent in preventing the enemy from weathering Guadaloupe. Towards the evening of this day some of the headmost ships of the British fleet approached so near to one of the enemy's that had suffered considerably in the late action, that it must have been taken, had not Count de Grasse bore down with his whole fleet for its preservation. The movement he made for this purpose brought him so near to the British fleet, that Admiral Rodney conceived immediate hope of being able to force him to action the next day. With this intent he made such dispositions during the night, that it

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was plain, at break of day, that it was no longer in the enemy's power to avoid an engagement.

Not one moment was lost in putting into execution the long determined method of engaging the enemy. The signal for close battle was thrown out, and obeyed with universal readiness by every ship in the fleet. The action commenced about seven in the morning by Admiral Drake's division. Ranging up as near as possible to the enemy, not a gun was fired from the British fleet, till it had approached them sufficiently for every shot to do execution; when such a fire began, and lasted throughout the whole fight, as the oldest seamen in both fleets confessed they had never witnessed before. The Formidable, Admiral Rodney's ship, discharged in the course of this terrible conflict near eighty broadsides.

The force destined for the expedition against Jamaica, was distributed on board the French fleet. Hence their ships were so crowded, that the slaughter among them was prodigious. This force was little short of six thousand men; and the loss it sustained on this day almost ruined it as entirely, as if it had been completely defeated at land.

The battle was fought on both sides with a spirit and determination, worthy of the character of two brave and rival nations, who seemed, on this occasion, to use Admiral Rodney's expression, to look upon the honour of their country as essentially concerned in the event of this day.

The fight had continued with equal resolution, and without any apparent superiority of success, till between twelve and one, when Admiral Rodney, perceiving an opportunity of breaking asunder the enemy's line of battle, resolved to improve it to the utmost of his power. In his own ship of ninety guns, seconded by two others of the same rate, and one of seventy-four, he bore down upon their cen-

ter, and penetrated through it. He was followed by the remainder of his division, and wearing round close upon the enemy, effectually separated their fleets.

To increase the disorder into which they were thrown by this bold and unexpected motion, Admiral Drake, in the van, was directed by signal to tack and gain the wind of the enemy. This being effected with great expertness and celerity, the confusion became general throughout the French fleet. The van endeavoured to re-establish the line, but with no success; and their rear was so entirely routed, that no hope remained of recovering its order. The rear division, commanded by Admiral Hood, coming up on this juncture, completed the enemy's defeat, and rendered it irremediable.

In this desperate situation the behaviour of the French Admiral was firm and intrepid, in the highest degree. With his own and the other ships in the center, he withstood till evening all the efforts of the various ships that attacked him. Captain Cornwallis, in the Canada of seventy-four guns, signalized himself in a particular manner, by the bravery with which he engaged him during the space of two hours; but Count de Grasse continued his resistance with as much obstinacy, as if the success of the day had still remained doubtful.

He persisted in this manner, facing with the most admirable undauntedness the repeated attempts that were made upon him from every quarter, till past six o'clock in the afternoon. Admiral Hood's approach did not alter his determination: He bore a heavy fire from him during some time, without any appearance of yielding; and it was not till after a dreadful destruction of his people, that he consented at last to strike. He and two more were the only men left standing upon the upper deck.

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He was not the only man, however, who behaved in this resolute manner. Several French captains displayed an intrepidity in the defence of their respective ships, after the rout had commenced, which did them the more honour, as from the success gained by the English, these were now enabled to attack them with great advantages. The Captain of the *Glorieux* did not yield till all his masts were shot away, and his vessel was unable to make any defence. The Captain of the *Cæsar*, after his ship had been battered to pieces, and his ensign-staff shot away, ordered his colours to be nailed to the mast, inflexibly resolved never to strike. He continued fighting accordingly till he was slain. When his ship surrendered, it was almost a wreck.—Other French officers acted in the same manner.

The courage exhibited, on the other hand, by the British officers was such, that it was difficult to tell who deserved the highest praise. Exclusive of the commanders, to whose valour and skill must be chiefly ascribed the success of the day, Captains Cornwallis and Inglefield distinguished themselves; the first by taking the *Hector*, a ship of the same force as his own, and contributing greatly to the capture of Count de Grasse's ship; the second by engaging and utterly disabling the *Cæsar*, a vessel of equal strength to that which he commanded.

Never did France, since the famous battle at La Hogue, in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two, sustain so complete and ruinous a defeat as on this memorable day. Their fleet, according to the accounts that afterwards transpired, was by their own confession almost ruined; and their loss in men amounted to an absolute carnage. The number of those who were actually slain in this engagement, and that of the ninth, was computed at three thousand, and the wounded at near double that proportion. What rendered this computation not improbable

bable was, that upwards of four hundred men were killed on board the *Ville de Paris*; and that in several French ships singly, between two and three hundred were outright slain.

This destruction among the French was the more astonishing, as in the British fleet the loss did not exceed eleven hundred in killed and wounded. The officers of distinction who fell, were Capt. Blair of the *Anson*, and Lord Robert Manners of the *Resolution*; both of them officers of the highest desert. The latter was the son of the late illustrious Marquis of Granby.

It was the general observation of the world, that the British seamen made good upon this occasion their boast, That whenever they should bring the enemy to close fight, the day should be their own. The perseverance and obstinacy with which they stood to their guns, and the alacrity and confidence of victory they exhibited, from the moment they found themselves in close action, were a matter of astonishment, as well as of animation, even to their own officers.

This important victory was the more conspicuous, as upon a candid examination of the circumstances of the fight, it appears, that the real superiority in number of ships during the action, was on the side of the French. Their fleet, according to their own account, consisted of thirty-four ships of the line. The British exceeded it only by two; but six ships of its rear division were prevented from coming up, through want of wind.

The loss of shipping on the part of the enemy, amounted to five taken; three of seventy-four guns, of which the complement was nine hundred men each; and one of sixty-four, and seven hundred and fifty. Another of their line was reported to be sunk. But that ship, of which the loss struck the French with the deepest concern, was the *Ville de Paris*,

Paris, so called from the city of Paris having built it at its own expence, and made a present of it to the late King. It had cost four millions of French livres, and was esteemed the most magnificent ship in France. It carried one hundred and ten guns, and had on board at its departure from Martinico thirteen hundred men, including marines and land soldiers.

It ought not to pass unnoticed, that the French fleet was under the command of three of the bravest and most esteemed officers in France; the Count de Grasse, M. de Vaudreuil, and M. de Bougainville; whose naval abilities, as well as personal valour, were universally acknowledged.

This was a truly unfortunate day to the Count de Grasse. He lost at once by this defeat all the benefits resulting from his late successes. He had by his dexterous management provided for the safety of a large convoy that sailed with him from Martinico, of which the destination was to the French ports in Hispaniola; and the preservation of which was of immense consequence at the present juncture. He had so far disappointed the endeavours to come up with his fleet, and was so much out of reach, that the British commanders almost despaired of being able to overtake him. In these circumstances he might have held on his course unmolested to Cape Francois, the place appointed for the junction of the French and Spanish armaments. Here arrived, he would have been at full liberty to enter on the execution of those designs with which he was entrusted, and would at the same time have been in the command of such a strength as would have set him above all danger. Had the whole British naval power in the West Indies been collected for the purpose of opposing him, he still would have retained a superiority sufficient to have carried

on the attempts he had in view, and which it would have been highly difficult to prevent him from prosecuting.

All these important objects were given up in a fatal hour. For the sake of saving a crippled ship, he exposed himself to a reverse of fortune, which, had it not befallen him, he still would have justly deserved; thus losing, by one wrong step, all the advantages he had gained, and the still greater of which he had the prospect and probability.

Such were the complaints and censures to which ill fortune subjected the Count de Grasse among his countrymen. He exculpated himself, on the other hand, by alledging, that the fleet under his command was fully a match for that under Admiral Rodney; especially considering the damages it had sustained in its engagement with him on the ninth, three days only previous to that he was now blamed for having hazarded. Under such circumstances, it would have been a disgrace to France to have lost a ship of the line, without attempting to protect it against the enemy.

In the opinion of reasonable people, the French Admiral was fully acquitted of the foregoing charges. His conduct throughout the whole of this transaction was justifiable in every respect. His dispositions were proper and judicious, and his behaviour in the day of battle did him the highest credit. He might be accounted unfortunate, but by no means faulty.

The flying enemy were closely pursued by Commodore Affleck, and the ships in company with him: He kept up a vigorous fire upon them, and continued the chase till dark. On the morning of the next day they were entirely out of sight. They had fled in a variety of directions, in order the better to elude and escape pursuit. Some took their course even so far to leeward as the Dutch island of
Curassoa,

Curassoa, bordering on the Spanish coast of South America. The greater number, collecting themselves into a squadron of twenty-three or four sail of the line, made the best of their way to Cape Francois.

This was all that remained in a body of the formidable fleet that had lately occasioned so much terror in the British islands. It is highly probable, that if night had not interposed, hardly any would have been able to effect an escape.

As soon as it was light, Admiral Rodney prepared for the immediate pursuit of the enemy, but was prevented by a calm which lasted three days. A number of frigates and light vessels were dispatched in the mean time to explore the harbours in the neighbouring French islands: when it being ascertained that the enemy had sailed to leeward, Sir Samuel Hood's division was dispatched in quest of them. He used so much diligence, that on the next day after leaving the fleet, he discovered five of their ships making towards the Mona Passage, between the East end of Hispaniola and the island of Porto Rico. The Valiant, of seventy-four guns, Capt. Goodall, being a great way a-head of the division, which was becalmed, availed himself of a favourable breeze to cross over the long and dangerous shoals of Cape Roxo in pursuit of them.—Coming up with two ships of the line, within three or four miles of the land, and fearing their companies might attempt to run a shore and burn them, he resolved to attack them without delay.—After little more than an hour's action, he carried both, with an inconsiderable loss on his side. But they suffered exceedingly in their masts and rigging; and their killed and wounded exceeded one hundred.

The capture of these two ships, both of which carried sixty-four guns and six hundred men, did
signal

signal honour to Captain Goodall, whose gallantry and good conduct were equally displayed in this daring action. Of the other three vessels, which were frigates, only one escaped the ships that pursued them.

After the performance of this important service, Admiral Hood's division rejoined the fleet off Cape Tiberoon; where he was left with twenty-five ships of the line to watch the motions of the combined forces of the enemy, who were assembling at Cape Francois in great numbers, and collected the remains of their shattered fleet. Notwithstanding their late defeat, their strength was yet very formidable; it consisted of twenty-four French, and sixteen Spanish, sail of the line, the latter entirely fresh from port. The troops were between ten and twelve thousand regulars, besides marines and volunteers from their islands. A strong squadron was also daily expected from France, under M. de Guichen, with a large military reinforcement. All these circumstances concurred to render the enemy, though defeated, yet very dangerous, and to make it necessary to be prepared for all events.

To this purpose Admiral Rodney now repaired to Jamaica with all possible expedition, as well to provide for its full security as to superintend the repair of the damages many of his ships had received in the late action. They were accordingly refitted with so much diligence, that a few days after his arrival at that island, which was towards the close of April, he was able to dispatch such a reinforcement to Admiral Hood, that the enemy did not dare to venture out of their ports, notwithstanding their superiority in number. They seemed to have lost both the spirit to attempt, and the expectation to succeed, in any enterprise against the ~~direct~~ or possessions of Great Britain in the West Indies.

In this manner were frustrated the designs of France and Spain in this part of the world. The first were now bereaved of almost every means they had prepared for their prosecution. Besides the deprivation of eight of their principal ships, and the shattered condition of many of the rest, they had lost the whole train of artillery belonging to their troops, with all its appurtenances, together with thirty-six chests full of money, for the payment of the military in their intended expeditions. Thus, had they been inclined to persist in the pursuit of their undertakings, they must have chiefly depended on the resources of their Spanish allies. But these partook so deeply of the impression that had been made by the late disaster, that they did not seem in the least disposed to act with any vigour for its reparation. They shortly after returned to the Havannah, giving up all thoughts of embracing any measures, for the present, but such as were requisite for their own safety.

The news of this signal victory arriving in Europe at a time when the attention of all people was taken up with the immense preparations carrying on against Great Britain and her foreign dependencies, struck them with the greater astonishment, as they had been given to understand by the emissaries and adherents to France and Spain, that it was past all possibility for Britain to withstand the efforts that would be made against its possessions in the American seas. The enumeration of their land and naval forces that were to be employed in this part of the world, filled all their people at home, and their numerous partisans abroad, with the utmost exultation, and occasioned the most serious alarm in Britain, and among the few friends of consequence it had in Europe.

It was therefore with unspeakable surprise that the European states were apprized of an event that

that was wholly unexpected, and even considered in some measure, by many, as impossible, in the ordinary course of things. It wrought an immediate change in every court of Europe : they no longer beheld Great Britain with the same eye. It had lately been pronounced on the brink of inevitable ruin, and its fall portended as the necessary conclusion of the numberless difficulties in which it had so long been involved. But now a new language was held, and different ideas took place everywhere. The menacing boasts of France and Spain, and the representations of their vast strength, lost all force and credit. Experience, it was now said, fully showed, that the superiority of which they made such a parade, was much greater in appearance than in effect; and that when put to a fair trial, they were not able to encounter Great Britain. Fleets might be constructed, and people found to man them, but the valour and skill of British seamen would still render them invincible.

Such were the opinions and discourses of the disinterested part of society. Even in those countries where the influence of France was notorious, the expectations that had been raised in her favour totally vanished; and the persuasion that had maintained its ground only among a few, that Great Britain would terminate the contest to her honour, now became current and popular every-where.

It was remarked at the same time by many, that as the year eighty-one, which had begun with fair prospects on the side of Britain in North America and the West Indies, had ended greatly to its disadvantage; in the same manner, the year eighty-two, which had opened with the most flattering promises to France and its allies, had produced the most unpropitious event that had hitherto befallen the confederacy against Britain.

This

This event may be said to have entirely decided the fate of the war in the West Indies, as the affair at York Town had in the preceding campaign settled the destiny of the Colonies.

CHAP. LXXVI. *Transactions in the European Seas.—French and Spaniards repulsed at Gibraltar.—Lord Howe relieves it.*

1782.

DURING the winter of the year eighty-one, the various powers in combination against Great Britain were busily employed in forming a variety of plans to distress it in every vulnerable part. The success of the Americans had highly raised the spirit and confidence of her numerous enemies. They projected a general union of all their naval forces, with which they made no doubt of overwhelming all resistance, and becoming absolute masters of the sea.

Their plan was, it seems, to select their best ships and seamen, and to invade the Channel in such a manner, as to deter the British home-force from venturing to face them. To this intent, threescore ships of the line, composed of the largest and best constructed in France, Spain, and Holland, were to take possession of the narrow seas, while a numerous list of frigates should occupy every track frequented by the trading fleets or vessels of this island.

Nor did their intentions rest here:—A number of troops were at the same time to have been distributed on board their Channel fleet; which, as opportunity served, were to have made descents on ~~different~~ parts of the neighbouring coast; and even, if they saw any prospect of succeeding, to have made attempts of the most serious nature.

In the midst of this perilous situation, the British ministry prepared with its usual vigilance and deter-

determination for the worst that might happen.— Exclusive of the powerful bodies of regulars, and excellently disciplined militia, that were stationed wherever any danger of an attempt on shore might be apprehended, such a judicious arrangement was made of the naval forces remaining for domestic defence, that notwithstanding the alarming superiority of the enemy, means were found to provide for the commercial navigation of Britain in every quarter, and at the same time to face and repel hostilities wherever they were excited.

The chief objects of attention in this arduous crisis were, to prevent the junction of the Dutch fleet with those of France and Spain; to intercept their trade in the Baltic; and to protect that of Britain in those seas; to relieve Gibraltar, at this period in great danger; and to cut off those supplies that France was now preparing to send to her fleets and settlements in the East and West Indies.

All these were objects of equal and indispensable necessity, and required the utmost watchfulness and diligence in their execution. The last, in particular, demanded the most immediate and vigorous exertion. Eighteen large vessels were loading at Brest with provisions, and warlike necessaries of all kinds, and with a body of troops to reinforce M. de Suffrein in India. They were escorted by two ships of seventy-four guns, one of sixty-four, and some frigates.

Intelligence of the intended departure of this convoy arrived in time to dispatch twelve sail of the line, under Admiral Barrington, in quest of it. He fell in with it on the twentieth of April: the French endeavoured to avoid him; but were so closely pursued, that in order to favour their escape, the largest of their men of war was compelled to stand an engagement with the Foudroyant, Captain Jarvis; which was the only ship in the British

squadron that had been able to come up with them. It lasted an hour; during which the slaughter on board the French ship, and the damage done to it, was very great in proportion to that space of time. More than eighty men were killed, and a much greater number wounded, when she struck to the *Foudroyant*; of which the loss was so inconsiderable, that only a few men were wounded, not one of whom died; a circumstance unprecedented in so sharp, though short an engagement.

In the mean time the chase continued with great vigour. Captain Maitland fell in with, and took a ship of sixty-four guns; twelve of the convoy were also captured. The value of their cargoes was immense, in regard to the purpose of their destination. The number of prisoners exceeded two thousand, of whom more than one half were regular troops.

The success of this squadron, having secured one of the most essential objects in view, it next became necessary to keep a watchful eye on the Dutch, who lay in great force at the Texel, with the double intent of convoying their trade to the Baltic, and of forming afterwards a junction with the combined fleets of their French and Spanish allies.

Twelve ships of the line sailed from Portsmouth in the coast of Holland, under Lord Howe. On receiving intelligence of his approach, the Dutch fleet, which was already at sea, on its proposed voyage, returned immediately into port. After cruising three weeks in these seas, during which the enemy remained within the Texel, a dangerous and epidemic illness breaking out in his squadron, Lord Howe returned to Portsmouth; where diligent preparations were making to put the Channel fleet in a proper condition to face the great naval force that was shortly expected on the British coast.

Two powerful squadrons, one of French, the other of Spanish ships, had joined at Cadiz; from whence

whence they proceeded in company to the northern extremity of the Bay of Biscay, in expectation of being reinforced by another squadron from Brest. While cruising in these latitudes they met with a numerous convoy of British ships for Newfoundland and Canada, fifteen of which fell into their hands.

Information arriving that a large fleet of merchantmen was on its way from Jamaica, the protection of it became a matter of such importance, that notwithstanding the vast number of the enemy waiting to intercept it, it was resolved that the ships in readiness should forthwith put to sea. They amounted to no more than twenty-two sail of the line, but they were commanded by Lord Howe, and Admirals Barrington, Ross, and Kempenfelt.

Never were the naval abilities of Lord Howe more fully experienced than upon this critical occasion. The force of the enemy was more than double his own, yet his dispositions were so masterly, that they were unable to circumvent him; and he frustrated their designs upon the Jamaica fleet so completely, that it arrived in perfect safety at the different places of its destination.

The reputation obtained by these brilliant exertions was clouded, however, by the most melancholy event that had befallen the British navy since the commencement of the war.

The distress to which the garrison of Gibraltar was at this time reduced, required such instant relief, that every expedition was used in preparing as strong a fleet for that important purpose as could be collected. It consisted of the best and stoutest ships in the British navy. Among these was the Royal George, of one hundred and ten guns, esteemed the noblest ship in the service. It had been the favourite of Lord Hawke, and other great naval officers, and had done essential service on a variety

of important occasions. It was undergoing at this time some repairs, and an examination of its condition, which required it to be somewhat laid on the side; but neither of them were so considerable as to oblige the company to quit her, or to take out her guns or stores, or equipments of any kind. She was therefore full of people; not only her own complement of men was on board, but numbers of others, women and children especially, who were come to take leave of their husbands and fathers before their departure. While the workmen were busied in the manner described, a gale of wind suddenly arose, which laid her entirely on the side: her ports being all open, the water rushed in from all parts, and she sunk in a few minutes. Of the numbers she contained at this unfortunate hour, amounting, it was thought, to near a thousand, not above four hundred were saved.

But the loss which was most felt and lamented, as being irreparable at this critical season, was that of Admiral Kempenfelt, and the many brave officers and sailors who perished with him. No vessel in the fleet had a greater proportion of able seamen: he himself was reputed one of the most experienced naval officers in the whole world. Though advanced in years, being almost seventy, he added to the knowledge and judgment obtained by long service, a vivacity and quickness of execution, that qualified him for the most arduous and complicated trials.— He was universally allowed to be a man peculiarly calculated for the difficult times in which he now lived.

The grief and concern of the public at this unexpected disaster was universal throughout the nation. The merit of this great officer, and the deprivation of his abilities at a juncture when they were so much needed, rendered the lamentation for his loss very deep and sincere. Nor did it terminate



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nate in expressions of sorrow; a most generous contribution was raised for the relief of the widows and children of the seamen who were lost on this melancholy occasion, which happened on the twenty-ninth of August, eighty-two.

In the mean time, the preparations relating to Gibraltar were continued with an attention and diligence which the importance of that object well merited. The siege had now lasted three years, and all Europe was in suspense in what manner it would close. The defence it had made excited universal admiration, and reflected an honour on the British nation, which, added to its late successes in the West Indies, began to render the prodigious efforts against this fortress very doubtful, and to occasion no little anxiety among those of the enemy who had hitherto been sanguine in their expectations of success.

The reduction of Minorca had indeed spread a general satisfaction throughout Spain; and, it was imagined, would produce an emulation in those who were employed against Gibraltar, which might have proved of effectual utility. But the difference between the two places was such, that the most intelligent people withheld their hopes, and did not look with any warmth of confidence on the probability that the latter would share the same fate as the former. Confined within the narrow limits of its fortifications, the garrison of St. Philip had in a manner been inclosed in a prison, where want of room and proper accommodation had produced numberless inconveniences, and subjected the troops to that illness which forced them to surrender, by disabling them from doing duty. Minorca was also at a vast distance from all succour, and its position laid it open to France on the one side, and to Spain on the other.

But the situation of Gibraltar was such, as enabled the troops, though limited to an inconsiderable spot, to breathe a more free and open air. It had the benefit of being almost surrounded by the sea, and was inaccessible by nature still more than by art. In the only part where it communicated with the main land, it was so powerfully fortified; and in such a strong condition, that the ingenuity of the most expert engineers had hitherto proved of no efficacy; and little more impression had been made on its defences, than on the first day they had been attacked.

From these considerations the generality of thinking people did not allow there was a just foundation to build any certainty of succeeding in the future, after having repeatedly failed in so many past attempts upon it, wherein so much valour and ability had been equally displayed.

Having however met with success at Minorca, the whole Spanish nation felt a revival of its hope to conquer the difficulties at Gibraltar. The original framing of the expedition against that island being ascribed to the king, it is of course natural to suppose, that on the completion of his design in that quarter, he should be led to make more vigorous exertions than ever, for the attaining of an object which he had still more at heart than the former.

The satisfaction he expressed on the conquest of Minorca was excessive. He rewarded the Duke of Crillon with the highest generosity; appointing him Captain-General of his armies, and to the conducting of the siege of Gibraltar. He now determined to employ the whole strength of the Spanish Monarchy to recover it to the Crown, from which he complained it had been torn, together with Minorca, by the calamity of the times. He considered it, for that reason, as incumbent on his own personal

personal honour, to recover it at a period that seemed so favourable as the present to such an undertaking.

It was obvious, nevertheless, that new methods must be adopted in its prosecution, the former having constantly failed. The conflagration of the town had only ruined the inhabitants, without producing any other effect, than to cast an odium on the besiegers in the eyes of all Europe, as if they revenged themselves on the defenceless people, for the disgrace of being unable to make any impression on the garrison.

Among the various projects that were formed, that which was proposed by the Chevalier D'Arcon, a French engineer of distinction, proved the most acceptable to the Court of Spain; it was attended with a vast expence; but, as it seemed to promise success, that was an object of little consideration.

The plan of this celebrated engineer was to construct such floating batteries, as might neither be liable to be sunk, nor set on fire. With this view their bottoms were made of the thickest timber, and their sides of wood and cork long soaked in water, with a large layer of wet sand between. Their thickness was such, that they were impenetrable to a canon shot. To prevent the effects of the red-hot balls, a number of pipes were contrived to carry water through every part of the vessel; and a quantity of pumps were provided to furnish them with a continual supply of water for that purpose. A cover of rope netting sheltered the people at the batteries from the fall of bombs. It was made sloping, that they might roll off, and spread with wet hides to prevent fire.

The number of these floating batteries amounted to ten. They were made out of the hulls of large vessels, some of fifty and sixty guns, cut down for that purpose, and carrying from twenty-eight to
ten

ten guns each, with about half as many in reserve against accidents. Each gun was served by thirty-six artillery men. These floating batteries were to be seconded by eighty large boats, mounted with guns and mortars of heavy metal. A multitude of frigates and ships of force, and some hundreds of small craft, were to accompany them with troops, for the instant execution of what might occur as necessary to be performed.

The quantities of timber, iron, ammunition, and warlike stores, implements and utensils of every denomination, employed upon this occasion, were enormous. The heavy artillery was computed to exceed a thousand pieces, and the gunpowder four-score thousand barrels.

To the land-force, already encamped before the place, a body of twelve thousand choice troops from France was now added. The corps of engineers was the flower of what France and Spain could furnish; and the camp was crowded with volunteers of the best families in both kingdoms. Numbers of military gentlemen came from every part of Europe to be witnesses of the stupendous transactions that were daily taking place at this famous siege; which was now compared to the most famous recorded in history.

Allured by the prospect of beholding the reduction of this fortress, two Princes of the Blood Royal of France came to the siege, some time after the command of it had devolved to the Duke of Crillon. Those were the Count of Artois, brother to the King of France, and the Duke of Bourbon, his cousin. Their arrival was marked by a behaviour full of attention and politeness both to the Governor and his garrison. The Count of Artois transmitted a packet of letters for various individuals in the garrison, which had been intercepted and carried to Madrid, where they had been detained

tained; and which he requested he might be the instrument of conveying to those for whom they were designed. Both he and the Duke of Bourbon signified, by a letter written in their name to General Eliott, the high regard and esteem they entertained for his person and character. The Duke of Crillon himself took this opportunity to express the same sentiments, and to intreat the General to accept of some refreshments.

General Eliott's answer was a pattern of soldierly frankness and civility. After expressing his respect for the marks of consideration bestowed on him by the two Princes, he informed the Duke, that by accepting of his present he had infringed the resolution he had taken, and faithfully kept since the commencement of the siege, To procure no provisions for his private use, and to partake of plenty or scarcity in common with his fellow-soldiers; requesting him, for these reasons, to confer no favours of that kind on him in future.

In the mean time, the prodigious preparations carrying on against the place, awakened the confidence of the besiegers to such a degree, that they looked on the reduction of it as a matter of absolute certainty. They began to be impatient at the delays that arose in the bringing of matters to that point of perfection and readiness that was proposed; and manifested the utmost eagerness to make trial of the efficacy of the vast project in agitation.

These were not, however, the sole motives for its acceleration. It was well known in Spain that a powerful fleet was preparing in England for the relief of Gibraltar, commanded by officers of great valour and experience, and who would not fail to exert themselves with the utmost resolution to preserve a place of so much importance. The incomparable superiority in number of the combined fleets of both kingdoms, did not quiet the anxiety concerning

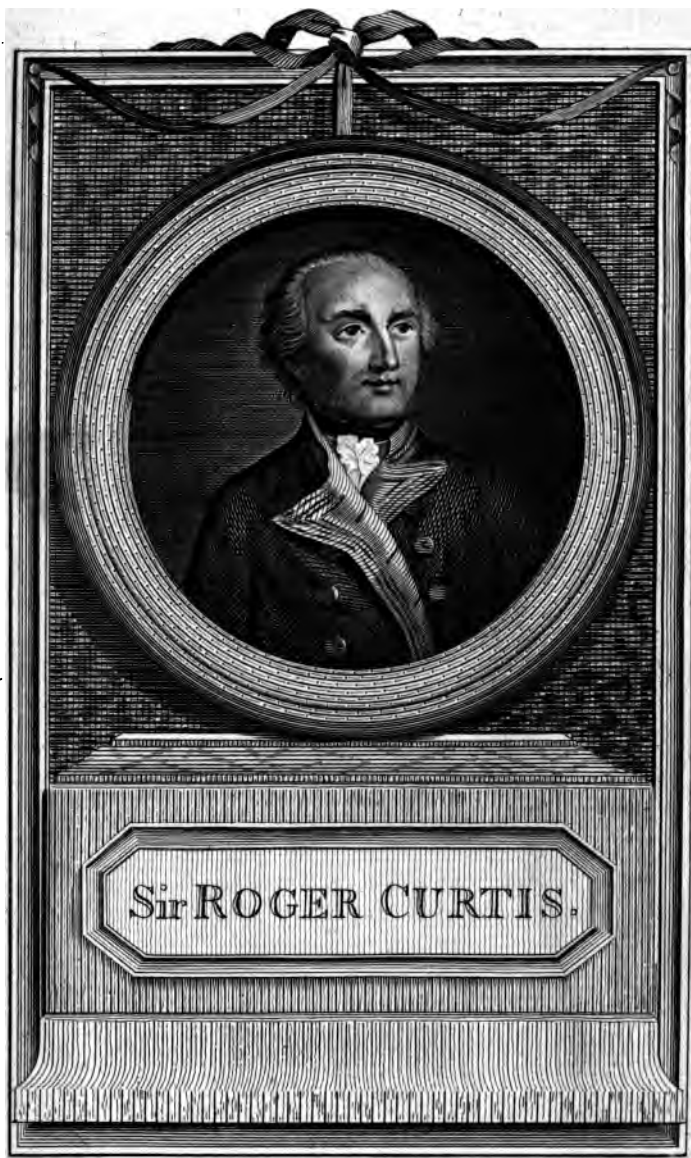
concerning the event that might ensue from an engagement with that of Great Britain.

Impelled by these various considerations, the resolution was taken, as soon as the designed arrangements were in a state of sufficient forwardness, to lose no time in carrying the proposed scheme into execution. Every thing seemed to concur in favour of this determination. A most violent spirit of reciprocal strife and emulation had taken possession of the French and Spanish officers and soldiers: They were perpetually contending who should give the most daring proofs of their respective bravery. While they were in this temper it was naturally concluded, that no efforts would be wanting to give success to the operations in view, that depended on the ardour and intrepidity of those who were to be employed in their execution.

General Elliott was not ignorant, on the other hand, that inventions of a peculiar kind were prepared against him; and that they were of so terrible and powerful a nature, that the besiegers looked upon them as infallible for the accomplishment of their intent. Though he was not acquainted with the particulars relating to those contrivances, his own judgment directed him in forming a just idea of their general construction and principles. He now turned his attention to the counteracting of them in the most efficacious manner; not doubting but the vigour and resolution which had hitherto so conspicuously signalized the behaviour of his people would accompany them in any trial to which they might be exposed.

The enemy having by this time pushed some of their works very near to the town, the Governor determined to try the effect of a cannonade with hot shot and shells upon them. The batteries of the place opened upon them on the morning of the eighth of September, and continued without intermission,





*Drawn from the life by Miller & Engraved by Birrell.
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mission during the best part of the day. The execution they did was beyond what had been expected. Two large batteries were set on fire and consumed, together with various other works; and another battery was so much damaged, as to require a thorough reconstruction.

The loss of men on the part of the besiegers was very considerable, from the necessity they were under to lay themselves open to the whole fire of the place, in order to extinguish the conflagration it had occasioned. Their works were on fire at such a multiplicity of places at the same time, that it was not without the extremest efforts they were able to stop its progress.

From this specimen of the efficacy of red-hot balls, great hopes were now entertained by the garrison that they would be able by the same means to succeed against the floating batteries.

In order to take revenge for the destruction they had suffered, the enemy opened next morning a battery of sixty-four cannon of the largest dimensions, which was shortly accompanied by a dreadful fire from other batteries, both of guns and mortars.—The number of the first employed this day exceeded one hundred, and of the second threescore.

On that and the following day, nine sail of the enemy's line of battle made an attack on the batteries that had been erected at Europa Point, so called from being the most southern extremity of the European continent. Captain Curtis, of the Brilliant frigate, who had already distinguished himself eminently during the course of the siege, commanded a large body of seamen, who were formed into a brigade, and did duty at the batteries on shore.—They were encamped near those of Europa Point, which were entirely committed to their management. They served them so effectually, that the enemy could make no impression in that quarter,

quarter, and were forced to retire, after having received so much damage, that two of their principal ships were obliged to withdraw to the bay of Algeziras, opposite to Gibraltar, for the purpose of being repaired.

On the twelfth of September, the enemy were taken up with preparations for the ensuing day.—The combined fleets of France and Spain were seen steering through the Straits, and standing in for the bay; where, on forming a junction with those already there, they amounted to forty-eight sail of the line, besides four fifties, and a multitude of frigates. This was the most formidable armament ever seen in the bay of Gibraltar. The numbers employed by land and sea at this period against that fortress, were estimated at above one hundred thousand.

The thirteenth of September was the day destined to decide the fate of Gibraltar. Early in the morning, the ten floating batteries came forward, commanded by Don Buenventura de Moreno, a Spanish officer of great gallantry, and who had signalled himself at the taking of Minorca. The number of cannon mounted upon them amounted to one hundred and seventy-two; besides the reserves.—They had on board between five and six thousand men. By ten o'clock they got into their appointed stations, anchoring in a line, at about a thousand yards distance from the shore.

As soon as they were properly arranged, they began a heavy cannonade, and were seconded by all the cannon and mortars in the enemy's lines and approaches. At the same instant the garrison opened all its batteries, both with hot and cold shot from the guns, and shells from the howitzers and mortars. This terrible fire continued without intermission on either side until noon; when, to the great satisfaction of the besieged, they found that their
own

own began to gain the superiority, and that of the floating batteries began to slacken. About two o'clock the principal of these batteries, commanded in person by Don Moreno, was observed to emit smoke, as if on fire; and some men were seen busy upon the roof, searching from whence it proceeded. Encouraged by this discovery, the fire from the garrison was kept up without the least discontinuance or diminution; while that from the floating batteries was perceived visibly to decrease. About seven in the evening they fired but a few guns, and that only at intervals. At midnight the Admiral's ship was plainly discovered beginning to burn; and an hour after, it was completely in flames. Eight more of these batteries took fire successively. Upon the signals of distress which they made, all the launches, feluccos, and boats of the enemy came up with all speed to their assistance, and began to take the men out of the burning vessels; but they soon met with interruption. Captain Curtis, who lay ready with the gun-boats, to take advantage of any favourable circumstance, came upon them at two in the morning, and forming a line on the enemy's flank, advanced and fired upon them with such order and expedition, as to throw them immediately into confusion. They were so astonished and disconcerted at this sudden and unexpected attack, that they fled precipitately with all their boats, totally abandoning the floating batteries, in which numbers of their people were left to perish.

This would undoubtedly have been their fate, had not Captain Curtis, extricated them from the flames, at the imminent hazard of his life, and that of his men. The danger he encountered in order to save them was such, that while his boat was along-side one of the largest floating batteries, it blew up, and the fragments of its wreck spreading to a vast circumference,

ference, some heavy pieces of timber fell into his boat, and pierced through its bottom; killing one man, and wounding others. He escaped with difficulty out of this boat, which was sunk with another, through the same accident.

The number of individuals preserved from destruction through the humane endeavours of the garrison, amounted to about four hundred. Many of them were picked up floating on rafts and timbers. The blowing up of the batteries, as the flames reached their powder-rooms, and the discharge of their guns, as the metal became heated by the fire, rendered the saving of those who were on board of them a very dangerous attempt. But the compassion excited by their distress, and the supplications they were seen to make by their gestures, could not be resisted. The behaviour of the garrison to these unfortunate people met with the warmest acknowledgments of the enemy; and, added to the noble defence they made on this memorable day, greatly contributed to raise the character of the British nation among the Spaniards and the French, and indeed through all Europe.

The floating batteries were every one consumed. The violence of their explosion was such, as to burst open doors and windows at a great distance ashore. This was the terminating scene of this awful and tremendous business; the report of which had brought thousands of spectators from all parts. The shores, the plains, the hills, in the vicinity of Gibraltar were crowded with multitudes, who had flocked thither in full expectation of being witnesses of its reduction.

The loss sustained by the enemy was industriously concealed; but, by a multitude of concurring proofs, it was evidently very great. Including wounded and prisoners, the former especially, who filled their hospitals, the number was reckoned to exceed two thou-

thousand: a heavy loss, when it is considered that it consisted in a great measure of their most expert gunners and artillery-men.

The combined fleets of France and Spain were mere spectators of this catastrophe. It had been proposed that they should co-operate upon this interesting occasion, by attacking the garrison at Europa Point, and in such places as appeared most exposed to an attempt by sea. This, it has since been asserted, would have occasioned a material diversion of its force, and must, by dividing it, have weakened considerably the means of the vigorous defence that was made in those parts that were actually attacked. The reason assigned for the inaction of the fleet was the want of wind.

The detriment sustained by the garrison in these various attempts of the enemy was so inconsiderable, as effectually to discourage the latter from the prosecuting an enterprize in which they made so little progress. The impression made on its works and defences, notwithstanding the weight of metal and quantity of artillery employed against them, was hardly perceptible. The list of slain and wounded since the middle of August, when the operations against the garrison had been carried on with unusual vigour, amounted only to one captain, and one lieutenant, with sixty-five soldiers slain; and to twelve other officers, with three hundred and eighty soldiers wounded.

It is probable the thirteenth of September, eighty-two, will long be remembered in France and Spain, as it put a final period to all the hopes that had been conceived of reducing Gibraltar by force. The repulse which their bravest troops and best officers met with on that day, both at sea and by land, was an humiliation that sunk deep into their minds; especially when it was reflected with how much presumption in their own favour they had calculated the

time that Gibraltar would hold out, when assailed by the terrible machines which they had prepared for its destruction, and had confidently pronounced to be irresistible. Twenty-four hours had to some appeared too long a space to allow for any opposition; and those who were less sanguine exposed themselves to censure. The Duke of Crillon himself was accused of affecting too much modesty, in extending the garrison's resistance to a fortnight.

The success of the British arms at Gibraltar, confirmed the opinion which had generally taken place on the victory obtained in the West Indies by Admiral Rodney, that Great Britain would rise superior to all her enemies. The name of General Elliott, became famous through all Europe. His conduct and bravery reflected the highest honour on the British nation; and he was justly deemed one of the principal supporters of its glory and fortune, in the midst of the imminent perils that surrounded it on every side.

Still, however, another difficulty remained to be overcome, before Gibraltar could be considered as in a state of security. Notwithstanding the failure of their attempt on the thirteenth, the enemy were not without hopes that, from the want of ammunition and provisions, the garrison would at length be compelled to surrender, without any further exertion against it than the prevention of supplies. They were well acquainted with their diminution in that fortress. Its defence on the last attack had consumed an immense quantity of powder and ball; no less than four thousand shot had been expended, according to the enemy's account, on their floating batteries only. Several days previous to this, the fire of the garrison had necessarily been very great, in order to cope with that of the besiegers; which was so prodigious, as to have been computed at six thousand cannon shot, and a thousand shells every
twenty-

twenty-four hours. Provisions were known also to be extremely scarce in the place.

Depending therefore on these deficiencies, they continued closely to blockade it, and to cut off all communication. The only channel remaining for the conveyance of necessaries to the garrison was by sea; and they now looked upon themselves as masters on that element. They did not imagine that it would be possible for Great Britain to collect a naval force sufficient to dispossess them of the Bay of Gibraltar, before they had obliged it to surrender through distress; and the condition of the place was such, that they were entirely satisfied a few days would reduce it to the last extremity.

But the indispensable necessity of relieving the wants of the brave garrison that defended it, together with the high sense of honour that animated the British nation and government for its preservation, overcame all obstacles. Such diligence was used, that a fleet was assembled at Portsmouth, consisting of thirty-five ships of the line, in excellent condition, and manned with the best officers and sailors in Europe. The command of it was given to Lord Howe; and he was accompanied by Admirals Barrington, Milbank, Hood, Sir Richard Hughes, and Commodore Hotham; all men of noted professional eminence.

It happened fortunately at this period, that a large fleet of merchantmen were safely arrived from the Baltic, and that a Dutch squadron, which had been cruising on the coast of Holland, not finding it practicable to penetrate southwards to join the French, had retired into port, and given up the intention of attempting such a junction during the present season.

When the British fleet sailed from Portsmouth, it left the nation in the utmost anxiety for the fate of Gibraltar. Contrary winds and unfavourable

weather retarded its progress; and it was not till after gaining the southern coast of Portugal, that it received information of the defeat of the enemy's attempt on the thirteenth of September.

On the 11th of October Lord Howe entered the Straits; and several of the storeships destined for Gibraltar came safe to anchor under the cannon of that fortress, without molestation from the enemy.

A violent storm arising during the night of the tenth, had occasioned much damage in the combined fleet. Two ships of the line went ashore near Algeziras; two more were driven out of the Bay into the Mediterranean; others lost their masts; and most of them suffered considerably. One in particular, a ship of seventy guns, was carried by the storm across the Bay, and ran aground under the works of Gibraltar, where she was taken by the garrison with her whole complement of men, consisting of seven hundred. Notwithstanding the endeavours of the enemy to destroy her, she was safely got off, and put into a proper condition.

On the thirteenth the combined fleet put to sea, with a view to prevent the remaining storeships, that had overshoot the Bay to the east, from making good their entrance into it, and at the same time to rejoin the two ships that had been separated from the main body by the storm. Having the advantage of the wind, they bore down upon the British fleet, which drew up in order of battle to receive them. Notwithstanding their superiority, they declined a near approach. On the wind becoming more favourable the next day to the British fleet, Lord Howe took that opportunity to pass into the Bay the storeships that were in company.

On the eighteenth, the remaining storeships were conveyed to Gibraltar, the troops, for the reinforcement of the place were landed, with a large supply
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of powder; and the wants of the garrison amply provided for in every respect.

Having thus accomplished the purpose in view, Lord Howe prepared to avail himself of the favourable wind that still continued, for returning thro' the Straits to the westward. But at break of day, on the nineteenth, the combined fleet, which had given no interruption to the operations in the Bay, during the preceding days, appeared in sight, at a little distance from the British fleet, at that time between the points of Europa and Ceuta. As it had no room in that situation to form in order of battle, it repassed the Straits, and was followed by the enemy.

Although it consisted but of thirty-four ships of the line, which gave them, as they had forty-six, a superiority of twelve, they still retained the advantage of the wind. The British fleet formed to leeward to receive them; and they were left uninterruptedly to take the distance at which they should think fit to engage. They did not however begin firing till sunset; directing it on the van and rear, and seeming to point their chief attack on the latter. They continued their fire along their whole line, at a considerable distance, and with little effect until ten at night. It was returned occasionally from different ships of the British fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy at times afforded an opportunity of making any impression upon them.

What the French commanders had principally in view was to cut off a part of the rear division, which was considerably aback of the rest; but on nearing it, they met with so spirited a reception, that they soon lost the hope of succeeding, and desisted from their attempt, after sustaining no small damage.

Next morning the enemy was perceived at a great distance, standing apparently for the harbour of

Cadiz. Lord Howe having thus given the enemy a fair opportunity of engaging him, did not think it adviseable to follow them. The end of his expedition had been fully answered, and his fleet was beginning to be short of water and provisions. For these reasons he held on his course to England.

The victory obtained over the French fleet in the West Indies by Admiral Rodney, the repulse of the French and Spaniards at Gibraltar by General Eliott, and the relieving of it by Lord Howe, in the face of so superior an enemy, were the heaviest blows that had been given to the confederacy against Great Britain. They wrought an intire new turn in the face of affairs both in Europe and America; and in a great measure decided the fate of the war. Through them the reputation of the British arms, and the honour of the British flag, were upheld with a splendour that had never been exceeded in the most prosperous periods. They shewed that the difficulties of the times, instead of depressing the genius of Britain, had called forth a spirit of exertion that seemed to animate its fleets and armies in proportion as the obstacles increased with which they had to contend.

In the mean time, new veins of resources, that had lain latent in the fulness of ease and security, were now brought to light, to the utter astonishment of the enemies of this country, who were annually prognosticating the impossibility of its discovering any further means of continuing a resistance that involved it in such enormous expences. The impediments they met with themselves, in providing for the support of the war, taught them how formidable that rival must be, who could alone stand his ground against so many adversaries.

These various considerations operated so efficaciously on the powers at enmity with Britain, that they began greatly to relax in the projects and determinations

nations they had been so sanguine in forming to her detriment. She now recovered that weight and ascendancy which had appeared before to be on the decline. It was not only the strength of her numerous foes that had been impaired by her late successes; the spirit and vigour with which they had acted hitherto was materially broken, and subsided in a degree that quickly became visible to the world. This was an effect of the most essential consequence, at a time when, notwithstanding the firmness displayed by the nation, a safe and honourable termination of the war was earnestly desired by all the parties that had so long been at variance with each other, and that still continued so fatally to divide it.

CHAP. LXVII.

Hostilities in America.—Transactions in the East Indies.

1782.

IT happened very fortunately for the views of the American Congress, that the successes obtained by the British arms were posterior to that misfortune which had befallen them in Virginia, during the former campaign. The discouragement felt by the allies of America was such, that had not that event taken place previously to the defeats which occasioned this depression, the colonists would still, in all probability, have remained exposed to the calamities they had so long endured, with no better prospect of terminating them than before.

It was therefore, with sufficient reason, they considered the preceding year as the epocha of their entire deliverance from all apprehensions on the part of Great Britain. It had completed the emancipation of the American continent, and left all the colonies in a situation of permanent security, with respect to the main objects for which they had been so vigorously contending.

Still, however, they were not freed from that state of war, in which although no destruction was apprehended, yet perplexities cannot fail to arise and a multitude of inconveniencies ensue, as well to the public as to individuals.

Notwithstanding the failure of the expedition against Virginia, and the reduction of the forces employed against that province, the remains of that gallant army, which had performed such great things in the Carolinas, was still in possession of the capital of the southern part, and overawed the country in a most effectual and alarming manner.

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Lord Rawdon, after the temporary cessation of hostilities, occasioned by the excessive heat and unwholesomeness of the summer months in the preceding year, had, upon his departure for England, left the command of the British troops to Colonel Stuart. As soon as the violence of the weather was abated, they took the field, in order to oppose the progress of General Greene. That vigilant and active officer had assembled a large body of troops, and, descending from the upper country, was on his march to the Congaree, with an intention to pass it, and attack the Colonel in the post he occupied on the banks of that river, at a place called Mac-cord's Ferry.

The British troops were at this time in very disadvantageous circumstances; for they were afflicted with illness, and in want of provisions. In this condition, however, they were obliged to exert uncommon activity, to prevent a supply that was coming to their camp from being intercepted.— They moved for this purpose to a place called Eutaw Springs, where, from the goodness of the situation, Colonel Stuart determined to make a stand, and establish a post.

General Greene, who penetrated into his design, marched with all expedition to attack him, before he could accomplish it. His force consisted of about four thousand well disciplined men. The British troops were computed at two thousand. On intelligence of General Greene's approach, they met him at three miles from their camp, in order of battle.

The engagement began between eight and nine in the morning, and continued till about one. It resembled, in many particulars, the action at Guildford, from the diversified manner in which it was fought; sometimes in open, sometimes in woody ground; and from the broken and detached con-
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licts that took place between both parties as they happened to be separated from their respective main bodies by the nature of the different spots on which they were engaged.

From the superiority of the enemy's number, and the frequent attacks of their numerous cavalry, the British troops found it necessary to make a retreating fight as far as their camp. The Americans followed them close, and attempted to force it. They charged with their bayonets, and behaved with unusual intrepidity ; but the resistance they met was so judiciously conducted, that, notwithstanding the obstinacy of their attack, they were not able to succeed.

The ground on which the British troops were posted afforded them several advantages. They had taken possession of a large and strong brick house upon it, from which the enemy were not able to dislodge them. They had also occupied a bushy field, so thick set, that the American cavalry, after repeated attempts to break in upon them, was repulsed with great loss; and Colonel Washington, who commanded them, was wounded, and made prisoner.

After a long and severe action, wherein both sides displayed the highest resolution, General Greene was obliged to withdraw his men. The fire from the house was however so heavy, that after losing those who served two pieces of cannon that had been brought against it, and who were slain upon the spot, they were compelled to retire without them.

Their killed, wounded, and prisoners, amounted to about one thousand. They carried off however most of their wounded, and retreated in good order, to seven miles distance from the field of battle.

But notwithstanding the British troops were victorious, their want of cavalry prevented them from improving their success; and that of the Americans

cans covered their retreat so effectually, that they could not be pursued.

Another circumstance contributed greatly to favour the Americans. The British troops had been some days in much want of bread. To supply that deficiency, parties were sent out every morning to collect potatoes, as far as they could venture into the country. It happened unfortunately, that on the very morning of the action, three or four hundred men employed in this business, were way-laid by the enemy, and fell into their hands, to the material diminution of the British army; which greatly experienced the want of them in the engagement that immediately followed.

From the scantiness of provision, and the necessity of providing for the safety of the sick and wounded, who were in considerable numbers, together with the reduced state of his force in consequence of the fight, and of the accident that preceded it, Colonel Stuart deemed it proper to draw nearer to Charlestown.

General Greene, on perceiving this motion, detached a large body to harass the British troops on their march; but they found them in such compact order, and so well prepared, that they thought it unadvisable to give them any molestation.

These transactions, which took place about the middle of September, eighty-one, put a period to all military operations of any consequence in the southern colonies. From this time both the Americans and the British troops stationed upon that continent, seem to have considered themselves as spectators of the great and important events that fell out in the other parts of the globe during the remainder of the contest.

These however were not viewed by either of them, or the rest of the world, as of a nature to bring about any material alteration with respect to the Colonies.

Colonies: The revolution which had severed them from the British empire was universally looked upon as completely effected. The only objects yet undecided were of a collateral kind, and could not in their future settlement affect but in a secondary manner the great system already established.

While the destiny of this vast portion of the British empire underwent such a decision in the west, the fate of its immense possessions in the east still hung in suspense. The successes obtained over Hyder Ally and his French and Dutch allies, were great; but the resources of this Indian Prince, supported by his unconquered abilities, and the assistance he was to derive from these two confederates, were matters of serious consideration to the English, who were contending against both in India; and whose situation, tho' not unprosperous at the present hour, might still be considered as critical.

They could not readily forget to what extremities he had reduced them, and with what difficulty they had emerged from them, contrary to the expectation of their enemies, and almost their own. — They knew that France would strain every nerve for their ruin, and that a powerful squadron was now in the Indian seas, prepared to co-operate with the naval strength of Holland against them on that element, while Hyder Ally renewed his attacks by land.

In the mean time, the preceding campaign had terminated highly to their advantage. Exclusive of the victories obtained over Hyder Ally in the field, they had concluded it by the capture of the principal settlement of the Dutch on the coast of Coromandel. The loss of Negapatam was the severest blow these could have received in this quarter; and, besides the intrinsic detriment done to their interest, had greatly dispirited them.

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While they were yet under the impressions occasioned by so severe and unexpected a loss, Sir Edward Hughes resolved to execute the project he had in view against Trincomale, in the island of Ceylon, one of the most important possessions of Holland in the Indian ocean.

This Dutch settlement is situated on the northern coast of that island, verging to the east : it lies on a spacious and secure bay, which, with several others adjoining to it, forms the most capacious sea-port in all India. The spices it produces, especially cinnamon, render it, in point of value, one of the richest acquisitions that ever fell into the hands of that industrious people.

These were sufficient motives to induce the British Admiral to proceed with all convenient expedition against a place of which the reduction would be attended with so many advantages. As soon as he had weathered out the monsoon, that set in immediately after the surrender of Negapatam, he sailed for Trincomale; where he arrived about the beginning of January, eighty-two.

Having taken possession of the principal bay, he landed a detachment of seamen, marines, and selected sepoys, who, under the command of Captain Gell of the *Monarca*, marched directly to the fort called Trincomale. They soon mastered it, to the great satisfaction of the Admiral, as it commanded the chief landing-place, and enabled him to set ashore whatever would be requisite for the attack against Fort Ostenburgh, the principal place of strength upon the island; and by the capture of which the settlement would be completely reduced.

This fort stands on a lofty hill, overlooking and commanding the harbour. But in its vicinity another hill arose superior to it in height, and only within two hundred yards of the fort. Of this a detachment of sailors and marines having taken possession,

session, Sir Edward Hughes sent a summons of surrender to the Dutch Governor, representing to him the inutility of making any defence after the loss of such a post, from whence the fort must undoubtedly be battered to pieces, as soon as the cannon for that purpose had been planted. But the Governor's answer was, that he was bound in duty and honour to defend the fort to the last extremity.

It was the earnest wish of Sir Edward Hughes and his officers to avoid shedding the blood of people with whom they had lately been upon a footing of kindness. Before the rupture with Holland, various interchanges of friendliness and hospitality had taken place between the Dutch and the English who frequented that harbour. Many, if not most, of the gentlemen belonging to the British squadron, had received civilities from the officers of the garrison. An intimate acquaintance subsisted between Sir Edward Hughes and Mr. Homed, the governor of the settlement.

From these motives, the British Admiral warmly pressed that gentleman to desist from a defence which he must be conscious would be needless. He urged him by every reason which friendship and humanity could plead : but his solicitations were ineffectual ; the Dutch governor persisting in the determination to hold out to the last.

As compulsion was now become necessary, it was determined to attempt the storming of the lower parts of the fort ; these, upon inspection, appeared liable to be carried in this manner, which was preferred to a regular attack, on account of the time it would consume, and the labour it would require to convey a sufficient number of battering pieces to that eminence overlooking Ostenburgh fort, and of which possession had been taken.

A party of seamen and marines was therefore selected for the assailing of the lower works :
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by the taking of which it was not doubted the place would be soon obliged to surrender. This party advanced at early dawn in great order and silence to the fort. The van had the good fortune to arrive at the foot of the outward wall undiscovered. Entering through the embrasures unperceived, it was immediately seconded by the whole body. The enemy, thus surprised, were not able to make any effectual resistance, and after being driven from their defences, were obliged to submit.

The loss sustained by the British party in this bold enterprize did not exceed threescore killed and wounded. That of the Dutch was very inconsiderable, as the victors gave quarter the moment the enemy demanded it. The acquisitions made on this occasion were two Indiamen, richly laden, besides a number of smaller trading vessels, that lay in the harbour under protection of the fort; and who surrendered as soon as they saw it taken. The fort itself was well provided with artillery, and contained a large quantity of ammunition and military stores. The prisoners amounted to about four hundred Europeans.

The capture of Trincomale was the second blow given to the Dutch in the East Indies by Sir Edward Hughes. It was heavily felt in Holland; where, on receiving intelligence of this loss, the clamours against the war with Great Britain became greater than ever. The complaint, urged with the most vehemence by those who disapproved of it, was, that by embracing the cause of France, Holland had not only met with grievous losses, but had incurred the greatest misfortune that could befall an independent state. It was now forced to look up to France for protection, and had thereby forfeited its consequence in Europe. It had by this imprudent step discovered its internal weakness, and now lay at the mercy not only of the enemy it had made by its
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complaisance to the French court, but even at the mercy of France itself.

In the mean time, Mr. De Suffrein, at the head of a squadron of eleven sail of the line and several stout frigates, was making the utmost expedition for the coast of Coromandel. On his way thither, he fell in with and took the Hannibal of fifty guns, which had been unhappily separated from the squadron that was coming to the reinforcement of Sir Edward Hughes.

The French Admiral had been informed, that the squadron under this officer consisted only of six ships of the line. In expectation of finding him in this state of inferiority, he hastened to Madras, in order to attack him before the arrival of those ships from which the Hannibal had parted. He appeared off that settlement on the fifteenth of February 1782. His force, including the Hannibal, was now composed of twelve ships of the line, six strong frigates, eight large transports full of troops, and six British prizes.

Happily for Sir Edward Hughes, he had been joined by those ships which M. de Suffrein imagined were still at a distance. They were three in number; a seventy-four, a sixty-four, and a fifty. They found him in Madras road, whither he had repaired shortly after the reduction of Trincomale, to take in stores and provisions, and put his sick ashore. With this addition he now reckoned nine sail of the line.

Mr. De Suffrein had promised himself an easy victory over the small squadron he had expected to encounter. He was therefore very disagreeably surprized at the sight of the ships under Sir Edward Hughes, drawn up to receive him. After coming to an anchor about four miles off Madras, he weighed and stood away to the south, as if he had
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had entirely abandoned the design of attacking the British Squadron.

But Sir Edward Hughes, notwithstanding his inferiority, immediately stood after him, and followed him during the remainder of that day, and the whole of the night. At day-light he perceived that the enemy's transports were making for Pondicherry under the protection of their frigates, and that their line of battle ships were collected in a body at about twelve miles distance.

Sir Edward Hughes hereupon made a signal to chase the frigates and vessels in their company. Six of them were taken, five being English prizes; but the sixth was a French transport of fifteen hundred tons, laden with a numerous train of field artillery, and a prodigious quantity of gunpowder and military stores, besides near three hundred regulars, and a number of land officers.

Had Sir Edward Hughes been better supplied with frigates, it is probable the whole French convoy would have been taken. But the necessity of instantly facing the enemy's line of battle, which was now bearing down upon him, for the assistance of their transports, obliged him to recal such of his own line of battle ships as were in pursuit of them.

The residue of the day was employed in various movements on both sides. The respective squadrons kept near each other during the ensuing night. On the seventeenth, at noon, Mr. De Suffrein perceiving the rear division of the British Squadron unable for want of wind to keep up with the rest, directed his attack upon that part alone. Eight of the enemy's ships bore down upon it. Sir Edward Hughes was the only one of those who were a-head of the rear that could give it assistance. Upon him and Commodore King the efforts of the French chiefly fell. Each had two and sometimes three

vessels of the enemy to contend with. Their main design was to cut off the Commodore's ship, which was a bad sailer : To this intent they kept so violent a fire upon her, that they had almost reduced her to a wreck ; when the wind about six o'clock in the afternoon coming round more favourably to the English, they took that opportunity to disengage the Commodore, and to attack the enemy with more advantage. They did it so vigorously, that in less than half an hour they compelled them to withdraw.

The two British ships against which the enemy chiefly directed their fire, those of the Admiral and the Commodore, suffered greatly in this action ; but those that attacked them suffered no less. The loss of men in the British squadron amounted to little more than one hundred and thirty killed and wounded ; but the same list on board the French exceeded two hundred and fifty, among whom a captain was slain. Two brave and experienced officers fell on the side of the English ; Captains Stephens and Reynolds. The first commanded the Admiral's ship, the second that of the Commodore.

The fight having terminated with the close of the day, Sir Edward Hughes lay preparing till next morning for a renewal of it ; but the French fleet was then entirely out of fight. Upon which he proceeded to Trincomale, in order to repair the damages his squadron had received.

This being accomplished with all expedition, he returned to Madras ; from whence, on receiving no tidings of Mr. De Suffrein, he hastened back to Trincomale, with supplies of men and ammunition for that garrison, which he had been apprized was threatened by the enemy, and at the same time to meet a convoy from England with stores and reinforcements.

Mr.

Mr. De Suffrein, who had been informed of this convoy's approach, was also on his way to intercept it. He was descried on the 8th of April. He could not however prevent Sir Edward Hughes from making the coast of Ceylon : but before the British Squadron could reach the harbour of Trincomale, the French had an opportunity of gaining the wind of them ; and on the twelfth found themselves in so advantageous a position, and the English in so dangerous a one, that they did not hesitate to bear down upon them in order of battle.

The British Squadron lay close on a lee-shore, full of rocks and shoals on the one side ; and to windward an enemy, superior in strength, was pressing upon it in various directions. Mr. De Suffrein having made such a disposition of his ships as he thought most advantageous, ordered his van division to attack that of Sir Edward Hughes. Himself, with the remainder of his Squadron, assailed the British Admiral. He singled him out, and, accompanied by another vessel, lay along-side of him a quarter of an hour ; during which he kept up a very heavy fire ; but his vessel received so much damage in that short space, that making room for others to continue the engagement with the British admiral, he shifted his flag to another vessel, and proceeded to the assistance of two French ships in close fight with a British one, of which he perceived the resistance would require the additional efforts of his own, to be overcome. This was the *Monmouth*, of sixty-four guns, Captain Alms, who, after sustaining with great resolution this unequal conflict, was, in consequence of his masts being shot away, compelled to drop to leeward out of the line ; and would have been captured, had not Sir Edward Hughes hastened with his own and two other ships to his protection.

The fight continued with equal vigour on both sides till towards dark ; when the British squadron being only in fifteen fathoms water, Sir Edward Hughes thought it necessary for the security of his squadron to come to an anchor. The French squadron finding itself at the same time much damaged, drew off to a considerable distance.

Both parties had suffered so much in this action, that neither of them were in a condition to renew it. They lay several days in sight of each other, repairing their respective damages, and observing reciprocally their motions.

The French at length thinking probably that their own ships had not been so much hurt in their rigging as those of the English, and were consequently more manageable, bore down in a line of battle upon them ; but on discovering how well they were prepared, they stood off, and kept their course till, night coming on, they could no longer be seen.

Had the position of the English been less unfavourable, it is probable they would have obtained some very decided advantages, especially as they had lately been reinforced by two ships of the line. The number of their killed and wounded amounted to five hundred and sixty-seven ; of these one hundred and forty-seven belonged to the Monmouth : so obstinately had she been assailed by the enemy.

It was remarked, that notwithstanding the French commander sought this action, none of his ships, those excepted that were in his own division, ventured to near the British squadron sufficiently for close action. They kept at a cautious distance from every part of it but the center, though it was obvious that they might have approached on all sides with much advantage, having the wind in their favour, and the English being so land-locked, as to stand more in apprehension on that account than in respect of the enemy. The loss of the French in
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slain and wounded was not less than that of the English; but the condition of their ships was much worse: that of M. de Suffrein and two others were so disabled, as to compel him, by his own confession, to cease the engagement.

Both these actions, though indecisive in regard to the respective squadrons, were, however convincing proofs of the naval superiority of the British officers and seamen. They had withstood a superior force, commanded by one of the most resolute men in France, and one who was known to harbour a particular enmity to the English. He had displayed uncommon courage in both engagements, and had exerted himself in such a manner, as showed him no less an able commander than a determined foe: yet his failure was complete in both; and he reaped no other benefit than the acquisition of much personal honour.

This state of affairs was very alarming to Hyder Ally. He had formed the highest expectations from an alliance with France. He had been promised a considerable body of French regulars, who were now stationed in the island of Mauritius, in order to be transported to India by the first conveyance, but only a small detachment of them had been landed; and the arrival of the rest was yet a matter of uncertainty, considering the difficulties that would be thrown in their way by the naval force under Sir Edward Hughes.

This prospect was the more mortifying to Hyder Ally, as his fortune seemed much on the decline at land. While the British squadron was opposing with so much vigour and efficacy the designs of M. de Suffrein on the coast of Coromandel, the army of Hyder Ally, that had held the English settlement of Tellicherry, on the coast of Malabar, blockaded since the commencement of hostilities, had made so little progress, that he began to

lose all hope of reducing it otherwise than by famine. To this purpose his troops surrounded it on every side, and cut off all its communications.

In the beginning of the year eighty-two, it was determined by the Presidency of Bombay to raise the siege. Sir Edward Hughes had in the preceding year been of effectual service in succouring and putting it in a condition to resist the enemy. But it was now so closely pressed, that it was necessary to take the most decisive measures for its relief.—Major Abingdon was placed for this purpose at the head of a powerful reinforcement, with which he proceeded by sea to Tellicherry. Having reconnoitred the position of the enemy, he determined to collect all the troops that could be spared from the necessary guard of the town, and to attack them in their own works. Early on the morning of the eighth of January, he came upon them so unexpectedly, that they were driven from all their lines, and fled to their camp. This was assaulted with equal success. Suddos Cawn, a relation of Hyder Ally, and who commanded his troops on this occasion, was, after an obstinate defence taken prisoner, with above fifteen hundred of his men.—Four hundred were slain on the spot, and a large quantity of provisions, artillery, ammunition, and military stores, with a considerable sum of money, fell into the hands of the victors.

This success gave the English entire possession of all the territory adjacent to Tellicherry, and opened a communication with the British posts in the neighbourhood. But, what was of more consequence, it led to an entrance into the principal countries under the dominion of Hyder Ally, and made a diversion which occasioned him much disquietude. Tellicherry was a post from whence they might be annoyed with facility, and it would
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require a powerful army to recover and maintain the ground he had lost in its neighbourhood.

But the success of the British arms in this quarter, though of great importance, was heavily counterbalanced shortly after on the coast of Coromandel. A detachment of chosen troops from Sir Eyre Coote's army lay encamped on the banks of the Coleroon, a river that bounds the district of Tanjour to the north. It was stationed there for the protection of the Company's possessions to the south of Madras, which were menaced with an invasion as soon as Hyder Ally's army should be drawn together again in these parts.

Tippoo Saib having made himself complete master of all the circumstances relating to the strength and situation of this detachment, conceived the design of attacking it, before it could be apprized of his intention, and while it thought itself in a state of entire security, from the great distance of Hyder Ally's army at this time.

In order to make the greater expedition, he set forwards with a less numerous body of men than usual, and with as little incumbrance as possible: but they were the flower of Hyder Ally's army.— They consisted of near fifteen thousand horse, and five thousand foot, and were accompanied by a corps of French regulars. The difficulties of their march were many, but they overcame them with great patience; and crossing the Coleroon, suddenly surrounded the British detachment.

It consisted of two thousand infantry, and about three hundred cavalry, and was commanded by Colonel Brathwaite, a brave and expert officer, whose conduct on this occasion was equally judicious and resolute.

The enemy surrounding him on every side, he formed his men into a square, with their artillery

distributed to their several fronts, and his cavalry in the center. Tippoo Saib attacked him everywhere, and endeavoured by means of his superior artillery to break his ranks, in order to rush in with his horse; but after a conflict that lasted almost three days, he could make no impression on the British troops. They returned the fire of his musketry and cannon with the utmost intrepidity and vigour, and repulsed successively every effort of his horse to break in upon them.

It was chiefly on these Tippoo Saib relied. He led them in person with great courage; but they were received on their approach with such volleys of grape-shot and musket-fire, that they were constantly thrown into disorder, and forced to retreat. On these occasions the cavalry in the center sallied out upon them, and did great execution.

On the third day of this obstinate engagement, M. Lally finding this method of attack ineffectual, projected another. Rightly conjecturing that the fatigue endured by this handful of men must have greatly exhausted their strength, as well as that so desperate a service must have thinned their numbers, he proposed to Tippoo Saib that the French infantry, which was fresh and entire, should charge one of the fronts of the square, while the three other fronts should be assailed at the same instant by his own troops.

This new plan of attack was executed with all possible vigour. M. Lally headed his men with great spirit. They were supported by flanking-parties of Tippoo Saib's best infantry, and a furious discharge of his artillery, most of which was brought up to second this attempt.

It was completely decisive. Though the British troops remained unbroken by the three other attacks, that were made together at the same time, they could not withstand this one. Worn down with
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toil, and oppressed with wounds, and consisting mostly of Sepoys, they were no longer able to resist the weight of a superior number of European regulars, coming fresh into action, charging them with their bayonets, and assisted by numerous bodies of men pressing upon them from all sides.

The behaviour of M. Lally upon this occasion did him singular honour. As soon as the British troops were broken, he issued immediate orders that quarters should be given to them. Great slaughter had ensued on the first breaking in of Tippoo Saib's cavalry, but he exerted so much authority, and interposed so effectually, that a stop was put to their rage, and no further effusion of blood was permitted. He even obtained of Tippoo Saib that the prisoners should be entrusted to his care; and treated them with a generosity and attention that greatly added to his character.

This was almost as fatal a day to the English as that whereon Colonel Baillie had been defeated. — A number of British officers perished in this unhappy engagement, and only one remained unwounded. — Colonel Brathwaite displayed a spirit, as well as a conduct, worthy of a better fortune. Though wounded, and losing much blood, he still continued to act with the utmost coolness and resolution. After his example, both officers and men persisted to the last in making every effort that courage could inspire; and though they lost the day, were acknowledged, even by their conquerors, to have gained more reputation by their defence, than they themselves had acquired by their victory.

C H A P. LXVIII.

Transactions in the East Indies.

1782.

THE disaster that had befallen the British arms on the banks of the Coleroon greatly revived the courage and hopes of Hyder Ally. He received an additional motive of satisfaction, by the success his forces met with, in conjunction with those French troops that came from the French islands off the Cape of Good Hope with Mr. De Suffrein.

As soon as this long expected junction had been formed, they proceeded under the command of Mr. Duchemin to invest Cuddalore, a place of strength, but which not being sufficiently provided for a siege, surrendered on capitulation. They took in the same manner some other posts of smaller importance; after which, being joined by Hyder Ally at the head of a numerous army, he determined to lay siege to Vandiwash, a place of great importance, and the loss of which would prove of essential detriment to the English.

The dangerous situation of their affairs in India, had a long time exercised the attention of the supreme seat of government at Bengal. The main consideration, amidst the many great difficulties wherein they were involved, was to bring about a separate accommodation with the Mahrattas; the gaining of which point would enable them to direct their whole strength and efforts against Hyder Ally, whom they viewed as a more implacable, as well as a more potent and formidable enemy.

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An opening to a general pacification with the Mahrattas had already been made by a treaty previously concluded with Madajee Scindia, one of the most considerable chiefs of that nation. This was the more favourable an event, as the abilities of that Prince, and his friendly disposition towards the English, had been signalized upon several occasions to their singular benefit.

Through his mediation, terms of reconciliation were at length settled between the residue of his countrymen and the English. These terms were extremely favourable to the latter. Among other particulars, the former engaged themselves to oblige Hyder Ally to restore to the English and their allies all the places he had taken from them. The prisoners made both by him and them to be comprehended in this article. On his acceding to, and fulfilling these stipulations, and remaining at peace with the English, as well as their allies and the Mahrattas, they were to abstain from all acts of enmity against him.

But the most important article of this treaty was, that by which the Mahrattas agreed to permit no other European nation to settle factories in any part of their dependencies. As a compensation for this concession, the English were bound, on the other hand, to afford no assistance or countenance whatsoever to any Indian state or nation at enmity with the Mahrattas, as they were by the same rule to give none to the enemies of the English. This negotiation, which was highly beneficial to the English, and established their power and interest in India upon the securest and most permanent foundations, was owing in a very essential measure to the talents and activity, exerted upon this critical occasion by Mr. Anderson, deputed for this purpose by the Governor and Council at Bengal. It was concluded
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and signed by both parties about the middle of May eighty-two.

The conclusion of this treaty was a severe blow to Hyder Ally. He now beheld the only enemy whom he considered as the main obstruction to his designs, released from the principal incumbrance that perplexed their operations against him. They were now totally freed from that powerful diversion, which their war with the Mahrattas had occasioned in his favour. Those, of whom he had found the alliance so efficacious in the prosecution of his present plan, were now to become his enemies, and to co-operate against him in defeating it. He knew, at the same time, that the jealousy entertained of his power and projects, would not fail to raise him other adversaries, as soon as it became apparent that they could declare themselves with safety. His dependence on the assistance of the French did not, on the other hand, seem justly founded. He had received the greatest promises from that quarter; but his understanding was too solid not to judge, that their power was inadequate to the performance of them. Facts were too strong against them, to imagine that through their means his affairs could be re-established. It was only by gaining a decided superiority at sea that the English could be subdued; and he had been witness that, with an inferior naval force, they had successfully opposed the French on that element. Hence he naturally foresaw, that as soon as they were sufficiently reinforced, they would compel the French to give up all further attempts to aid him; the consequence of which would be the total defeat of the system he had so long and so assiduously been labouring to establish.

To these considerations it was chiefly owing, that, notwithstanding the successes which his son Tippoo Saib and the French troops added to his own had
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met with, he acted with so much circumspection, and appeared so unwilling to hazard any general action with the English.

Upon Hyder Ally's moving towards Vandiwash, Sir Eyre Coote marched immediately to protect it from an attack, not doubting, from the force now assembled under that Prince, that he would risk an engagement sooner than give up an attempt on which he appeared so intent. But the consequences of a defeat in the field were so greatly apprehended by him, that he did not dare to commit his fortune to such a trial: Neither did he seem to place much reliance on the French auxiliaries in his army. Whatever might be the motive, he considered them as greatly inferior to the English in their military character.

On Hyder Ally's declining an engagement, in support of his design against Vandiwash, Sir Eyre Coote determined to take such measures as might compel him to one. As he was so strongly posted, that it appeared impracticable to dislodge him, he made a motion towards a place of great strength, called Arnee, which was the principal deposit of provisions, warlike stores, and necessaries for that Prince's army. The preservation of this place obliged Hyder Ally to quit his advantageous ground. He advanced with such speed, that he came upon the British army unawares, while it was preparing for the last march to Arnee, from which it was no more than five miles distant.

Hyder Ally's conduct upon this occasion was equally cautious and resolute. The British army's march was through low grounds, encompassed on most parts with high hills. Of these he took immediate possession. He planted his cannon upon them, and kept up a heavy fire upon the British troops below, while his numerous cavalry attacked them on every side. This unequal conflict lasted
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till noon; the enemy persisting with great vigour to cannonade them from the eminences above, and to use their utmost endeavours to throw them into disorder, and break their line, by means of the repeated attempts of their horsemen on the plain.

Under all these disadvantages, Sir Eyre Coote formed his army into such an order of battle, as enabled him to close in with the enemy much sooner and nearer than they had apprehended. The action now became serious and decisive. The resistance made by Hyder Ally's people was long and obstinate; but it only proved the superiority of the British troops. Their discipline and valour, together with the judicious dispositions made by their General, rendered them at length completely victorious. The enemy were intirely routed, and put to flight. This engagement happened on the second of June, eighty-two.

But notwithstanding this overthrow, Hyder Ally still kept the field, though at a distance. As the want of cavalry prevented Sir Eyre Coote from pursuing his advantages, that Prince could never be thoroughly defeated. As his own cavalry was exceedingly numerous, by its means he always covered his retreats so effectually, as to lose but few men in making them, and to be in a condition, within a short time, to act upon the offensive. This was signally proved on the present occasion. Five days after the preceding engagement he circumvented an advanced body of the British army, which was surrounded and cut off before it could receive any assistance. He harrassed it at the same time in such a manner, as to compel it to stand perpetually upon its guard, and hardly to enjoy any respite.

The difficulty of subsisting, and the necessity of providing for the relief of the many who were either sick or wounded, together with the excessive heat of the season, induced Sir Eyre Coote to move
nearer

nearer to Madras. His own ill state of health obliged him shortly after to relinquish the command of the British forces, which fell to General Stuart.

The vast projects of Hyder Ally meeting with these continual obstructions and discomfitures at land, he was now reduced, to his great mortification, to depend for their success on the better fortune of his French allies at sea.

After the action of the twelfth of April, between the British and French squadrons, the latter withdrew to Batacalo, an harbour in the Isle of Ceylon, where the repairing of their ships employed the French till the beginning of June. They now returned to the coast of Coromandel, where their squadron was amply supplied with provisions by the Dutch; and received a large reinforcement of men, among whom were some hundreds of gunners, from the French who were stationed at Cuddalore, which was now become their principal post and harbour on the coast of Coromandel.

It was the earnest desire and advice of Hyder Ally to Mr. De Suffrein, that as he had a decisive superiority in number of ships, he should lose no time in seeking the British squadron, and fighting it, before that reinforcement should arrive, which was daily expected from England, and was reported to be very considerable.

The British squadron was at that time at Negapatam, whither Sir Edward Hughes had repaired from Trincomale, as soon as he had refitted his ships, and been informed of the departure of the French squadron from Batacalo.

On the fifth of July Mr. De Suffrein came in sight of Negapatam. On his appearance Sir Edward Hughes immediately put to sea, and stood after him. The evening and night were spent in gaining the wind of the enemy. This being accomplished,

complished, the British fleet bore down upon the French, and commenced a close action, about half an hour past ten in the morning. It continued with great warmth on both sides till near one in the afternoon; when the French ships having received much damage, were thrown into great disorder; one of them, a principal ship, being obliged to quit the line. Fortunately for them, at this juncture, a breeze arose quite contrary to that which had hitherto proved favourable to the English. It threw aback the ships that were closest in action, and enabled the enemy to disengage themselves from the danger they were in.

During the disorder into which this sudden shifting of the wind had thrown the British squadron, the French had time to recover themselves, and to form to windward those which had been least damaged, in order to cover the rest. Sir Edward Hughes, on the other hand, was making his utmost efforts to gain such a position as would enable him to re-attack the enemy advantageously. But the wind had so scattered his squadron, that only a part of it could renew the engagement; and some of his ships were at such a distance from the others, that they ran the utmost hazard of being cut off by the enemy.

In the afternoon, the French drawing together in a close body, stood away from the British squadron. Hereupon Sir Edward Hughes, who had made ready for another conflict, collected his ships in the same manner, and kept sight of them till dark, when they came to an anchor about nine miles to leeward. On the close of day he anchored off the land between Negapatam and Nagore, and spent the night in repairing the damages received in the action, in expectation of being able to come up with the enemy next morning, and ending the contest decisively. But to his great concern, the French squadron

ron got under sail at break of day, and made off with all speed to Cuddalore: his own ships at the same time being so much hurt in their rigging, that they were not able to pursue the enemy to any effect.

Thus ended this remarkable action, in the forepart of which the French were so thoroughly defeated, that one of their ships actually struck to the British one that was nearest to her; but on observing she was in the very act of veering, in obedience to a signal from the British Admiral, and that some French ships were approaching, she hoisted all the sail she could, fired at the British ship, and made off to her own. It appeared in this engagement, as in all others throughout the war, that the French were unable to stand a close action with the British seamen, on equal terms. Had not an unexpected alteration of wind interposed, it was clear that these latter would have obtained a complete victory.

The reality of the advantage on the side of the English fully appeared in the far greater number of slain and wounded on that of the French, which amounted to near eight hundred, while the same list on board of the British Squadron came to little more than three hundred. Among those who fell, was Captain Maclellan, of Sir Edward Hughes's own ship. He was the second Captain slain on board of the Admiral within the space of five months.

M. de Suffrein withdrew to Cuddalore in consequence of this action, in order to repair his Squadron. He did this with the greater expedition, as he received information that a large body of French troops, in transports, was arrived off the isle of Ceylon, in company with three ships of the line. This affording him an opportunity of retaliation for the loss he had suffered in the late engagement, he exerted himself to improve it; and made such progress in the refitting of his Squadron, that it was

able to put to sea at the beginning of August. The object he had now in view was an attempt upon Trincomale.

Sir Edward Hughes was in the mean time taking in provisions and ammunition, and putting his squadron in a proper condition at Madras. But the secret of the departure of M. de Suffrein's squadron from Cuddalore, as well as of the expedition intended against Trincomale, were so well kept, that the British Admiral received no intelligence of these transactions till a British frigate chasing a French one, which took shelter with the French squadron at Trincomale, discovered it by this accident, and hastened with the news to the British Admiral at Madras.

Sir Edward Hughes had already dispatched two ships of the line, with supplies, and a reinforcement of troops for the garrison of Trincomale.—On receiving this information, his squadron being in sufficient readiness, he sailed immediately to the relief of that place: but the weather set in so contrary to him, that all his endeavours to arrive in time were totally ineffectual.

M. de Suffrein had in the mean while formed a junction with the French transports and men of war. With these he proceeded to the harbour of Trincomale, where the troops effected a landing under the fire of his squadron, and laid close siege to the fort. The garrison was not deficient in necessities for a defence; but the place was not in a state of strength adequate to resist such a powerful attack as was made by the enemy. Their batteries silenced those of the fort in less than two days, and the commanding officer found himself under a necessity of capitulating. He obtained honourable conditions for his garrison, and security for those that had been already granted to the Dutch, on the preceding capture of the place by the English: & circum-

circumstance that redounded much to the honour and good faith of these,

The suspected approach of Sir Edward Hughes, induced the French Admiral to agree without difficulty to all the demands of the garrison; and the place was surrendered to the French on the last day of August.

It was with deep concern that Sir Edward Hughes, on his arrival off Trincomale on the second of September, discovered the forts were in the hands of the enemy, who lay in the bay with fifteen ships of the line, while he had no more than twelve. But the spirit of his people were so stimulated with a desire of vengeance, that he did not in the least hesitate to come to an immediate engagement with the enemy, notwithstanding their evident superiority.

Nor was M. de Suffrein averse to abide the issue of a contest. He came out of the Bay next morning; and the engagement began at noon with great fury on both sides. To avail himself of his superiority in number, he assailed the last ship in the rear of the British Squadron with two of his own, and the two first of its van with five. The attack on the rear was frustrated by the timely assistance of another ship, of which the fire was so violent, that the enemy was completely beaten off. But in the van, where one of the ships they attacked was only of fifty guns, their superiority was more heavily felt. The other ship, after a desperate resistance, was so disabled as to move out of the line; and that of fifty was compelled to make its way through the fire of the five before she could be assisted.

The center divisions of both squadrons were in the mean while closely engaged. The French ships suffered most, especially in their masts; several of which were shot away. The conflict continued with equal obstinacy on each side till about seven o'clock in the afternoon, when the French admiral

losing both his mizen and main-mast, and several of their other ships being essentially damaged, they drew off. They received on retreating a severe fire from the British squadron; but it was not in a condition to pursue them, from the hurt it had itself sustained.

Sir Edward Hughes lay-to during the night, intending to recommence the fight next morning: but, on the return of light, he could discover none of the enemy. They had returned, as soon as it was dark, to Trincomale. They re-entered that harbour in so much confusion, that partly through that cause, as well as from the obscurity of the night, they lost a ship of seventy-four guns.

Their loss of men in this engagement was considerably greater than in the former, amounting to near eleven hundred killed and wounded. It fell in a much larger proportion on the French Admiral's ship than upon any other; its return of slain and wounded being no less than three hundred and eighty. The same list on board the British squadron was incomparably less, being no more than three hundred and thirty. Among the slain however were three officers of eminent merit as well as rank; Captains Wat of the Sultan, Wood of the Worcester, and Lumley of the Isis.

The consequence of the loss of Trincomale was now heavily experienced. While the French lay safely in that harbour, repairing their squadron, Sir Edward Hughes was obliged to bear away to Madras for the same purpose. But here he was assailed by one of the most terrible tempests that was ever known upon that coast, and in which little less than one hundred trading vessels were lost. This calamity occasioned another still greater. The vessels cast away were laden with rice, of which there was an extreme scarcity at Madras, owing to the defect of cultivation, from the distresses and devastations

vastations of the war in the Carnatic. The loss of these vessels increased the scarcity to an absolute famine; which carried off about ten thousand of the inhabitants, before a sufficient supply could arrive from Bengal for their relief.

The continuance of the bad weather, through the setting in of the monsoon, on the coast of Coromandel, compelled Sir Edward Hughes to repair with all expedition to Bombay, where he intended to give his squadron a thorough refitting; but his passage to that settlement was accompanied with a continual boisterousness of weather; and he did not arrive till towards the close of the year. His squadron was so shattered, that in order to repair it with due expedition, he was obliged to distribute it between the dock-yards of Bombay and the Portuguese settlement of Goa.

In the mean time Sir Richard Bickerton, with a squadron of five ships of the line, was arrived at Bombay from England. He brought near five thousand men for the land-service. Not meeting with Sir Edward Hughes there, he proceeded to Madras, where, having put the troops ashore, he returned to Bombay to join him. His voyage from England to Bombay was very favourable; and in his passage from Bombay to Madras, and back again to that place, he had the good fortune to escape the bad weather that had attended Sir Edward Hughes; and both his ships and people were in condition for immediate service.

Four battles had now been fought between Sir Edward Hughes and Mr. de Suffrein in the space of seven months. In the course of no year during this or any preceding war, did two naval commanders meet so frequently in fight, at the head of the same squadrons. Never had so signal and obstinate a competition for the mastery of the Indian ocean been exhibited between any two nations, as that

which now subsisted between the English and the French. Those ancient rivals contended for empire in India, with no less eagerness than they did in Europe. They seemed indeed to consider this part of the globe as that wherein their honour and interests were peculiarly at stake, from the prodigious commercial benefits that would accrue to those who should remain masters of it. The greatness of the objects which they had respectively in view animated them both in the most violent degree; and their reciprocal efforts were principally directed, as far as distance and other circumstances would permit, to this vast and complicated scene of action.

It was however very remarkable at this time, that contrary to former experience and long observation, the behaviour of the French officers did not correspond with that character which they had hitherto borne. Instead of approbation and praises, their commander was perpetually loading them with censure and reprimand for misbehaviour. Several were ignominiously dismissed the service; some remanded home to be tried in France, and six of his captains were sent under arrest to the French islands off the Coast of Africa, for the like causes.

Far different was the conduct and treatment of the British officers; in whose commendation their Admiral was lavish upon every occasion, without one single exception throughout the several engagements that took place. Hence it may not unjustly be inferred, that the accounts published in England, of the different actions with the French in India, however they might appear too favourable to this country, had a just and solid foundation, and were much more worthy of credit than the reports so industriously propagated in France; the authenticity of the first being supported by a proof, which, though collateral, argued powerfully against the veracity of the last.

CH A P.

C H A P. LXIX.

Transactions in the East-Indies.

1782, 1783.

THE French promised themselves, with much reason, a multiplicity of advantages from their Squadron's remaining in the proximity of the coast of Coromandel, while the British Squadron was compelled to sail round to that of Malabar for the purpose of refitting. In this respect the deprivation of the harbour of Trincomale was particularly detrimental to the English.

France intended that the next campaign in India should be conspicuously signalized by the immense force she was to display at land as well as at sea, in that part of the world. Exclusive of the French troops already landed on the coast of Coromandel, a body of near five thousand men, all regulars, was to join them from their African islands. They were to be accompanied by several ships of the line, to reinforce M. de Suffrein, whose naval strength, it was then hoped, would by its great superiority, prove an overmatch for that under Sir Edward Hughes, while their military ashore, through their numbers, and especially the powerful artillery they were to bring into the field, would in all probability overcome any resistance.

In order to oppose effectually the designs of the French, which were chiefly directed to the coast of Coromandel, it appeared necessary to make a powerful diversion on the Coast of Malabar. This measure had already been adopted during the preceding campaign by the Presidency of Bombay. A strong body of troops, commanded by Colonel Humberstone, had taken Calicut and Panyan, two considerable

able cities on that coast, besides others of lesser note, and penetrated into the mountainous and difficult inland country in their neighbourhood. Here, having made himself master of a place called Mongarry Cotta, of which the situation commanded the entrance into the inner parts, he proceeded to attack Palacatcherry, a considerable town at some miles distance. But contrary to the hope he had formed of easily mastering it, from the information he had received of its inability to resist him, he found himself suddenly assailed by a numerous enemy, that surrounded his troops on every side: it was with no small difficulty they could extricate themselves, nor without the loss of their provisions and baggage.

Intelligence arriving at Bombay of the motions of Colonel Humberstone, and apprehending that the attempts he was now making required a greater force than that of which he was possessed, the Presidency dispatched General Mathews to his assistance, with a large reinforcement. The Colonel's strength, in the mean while, was not adequate to the making of any effectual stand against the superior force that was advancing against him under Tippoo Saib; who used such diligence, that Colonel Humberstone had only time to make good his retreat to Panyan, where he found Colonel Macleod, who now assumed the command.

The situation of Panyan, on the sea-coast, enabled two frigates to come to the assistance of the British troops. Their fire, together with that from the works which the troops had thrown up ashore, rendered the repeated attempts of the enemy to force them entirely fruitless. This resistance was seconded by several vigorous sallies, wherein the enemy suffered considerably.

The force under Tippoo Saib consisted of near thirty thousand men, ten thousand of whom were horse.

horse. His infantry was the best disciplined of his army; and he was accompanied by Mr. Lally with a large body of French. At the head of this formidable strength, Tippoo Saib's spirit would not suffer him to refrain from making a general effort against the British troops. He assailed their lines accordingly with his whole force. His attack was conducted with equal regularity and resolution: Both he and the French commander exerted themselves personally with uncommon bravery. But, after a fierce and bloody dispute, his people were completely repulsed. The success obtained by the British troops was so great and decisive, that Tippoo Saib abandoned the siege of Panyan, and withdrew to the other side of the river of that name.

General Mathews, who was hastening to the aid of Colonel Humberstone, on being apprized of this transaction, and deeming his situation no longer dangerous, resolved to carry the war into the heart of Hyder Ally's dominions; judging this the most direct measure to compel him to relinquish the defence of such as were more distant, and which would thereby lie open to invasion. To this intent he brought the forces under his command before the city of Onore, situated about three hundred miles to the south of Bombay, and one of the principal places in the country of Canaree. It was taken by assault with great slaughter, and plundered, with circumstances of avarice and rapine, that were highly disgraceful to the victors; among whom, at the same time, great discontents arose concerning the distribution of the spoil.

The death of Hyder Ally happening about this period, which was the close of eighty-two and opening of eighty-three, had excited the greatest expectations in his enemies of being able to profit by this event. The Presidency of Bombay, in consequence of it, sent orders to General Mathews to
proceed

proceed with all the force he could collect into the country of Canaree, in order to gain possession of Bednore, the capital; by which means the treasures of Hyder Ally, which were reputed immense, would fall into his hands, together with all his magazines for war. The Council of Bombay, among other motives, was partly determined to this measure, by the discontents which were said to prevail in that country, and the disinclination of the generality of the inhabitants to submit to any government but their own.

After having forced their way through the passages in the mountains that form the frontiers of this country, the British army advanced towards Bednore, which now bore the name of Hyder Nagur, or the city of Hyder, by order of that prince; one of the most spacious and magnificent places in India. As it was incapable of resistance, it was delivered up to the English by the Governor, together with Hyder Ally's treasures, and the remainder of the whole province, of which it was the capital, on condition that all private property should be secure, and that he himself should continue to govern it under them, as he had done under Hyder Ally.

On the surrender of Bednore, which took place in the beginning of February eighty-three, the British General imprisoned the Indian Governor, in direct violation of the articles of capitulation; and committed various irregularities, which gave great offence to his principal officers. His conduct, it is said, became altogether so destitute of prudence and propriety, that three of them left him, and returned to Bombay: These were Colonels Macleod and Humberstone, and Major Shaw. They belonged to the King's troops, and were men of known honour and bravery.

General Mathews, on the other hand, charged
both

both them and all others under his command, with disrespect and licentiousness; and complained, that their mutinous disposition and the unruly behaviour, of which they were guilty, threatened the most dangerous consequences.

On the examination of those charges, and of the answers that were made to them, and upon a long enquiry into the conduct of General Mathews, he was suspended from the command of the army; and it was conferred on Colonel Macleod.

During these proceedings at Bombay, a detachment from the forces under General Mathews invaded and subdued several places on the neighbouring coast. Among these was Mangalore, the principal sea-port and marine arsenal of Hyder Ally. It was carried, after some resistance; but the fort held out with so much obstinacy, that General Mathews was obliged to besiege it in form with the major part of his troops. By its surrender on the ninth of March, an end was put to the project of setting up for a maritime power, which Hyder Ally had formed and brought into a considerable state of maturity; a number of stout ships, three of which were of the line, being already far advanced in their construction.

The loss of Mangalore was an object of much concern to Tippoo Saib, who had succeeded to his father's designs as well as his power. He prepared immediately to march against the British forces in the Bednore country, and collected for that purpose all the troops he had in the Carnatic; resolving to relinquish this entirely, however mortifying it might be to give it up, after so much toil and struggle to keep it, rather than to part with a province which his father had made the seat of his empire, and his favourite residence.

The army, with which Tippoo Saib was advancing to the rescue of his capital, consisted of above
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one hundred thousand men. The force which General Mathews had to oppose him amounted only to between two and three thousand, of whom six or seven hundred were Europeans. It had been expected by the most judicious officers with him, that, on being apprised of the multitudes that were approaching, he would have posted himself at the passes on the mountains leading down to the sea-coast, where, it was thought, he might have effectually protected his late conquests; but, contrary to all the rules of prudence, he marched out of Bednore, and gave battle to Tippoo Saib in an open plain.

The result of his temerity was, that, after a short contest, his handful of men was totally routed, with great slaughter; and he was obliged with the broken remains of his small force, to take shelter in the fortress, that stood upon an eminence near the town. Here they were immediately invested on every side. After sustaining a siege of near three weeks, wherein many were slain and wounded, and being much reduced otherwise, through illness and constant fatigue, the enemy's artillery having at the same time destroyed most of their defences, they offered at length to capitulate.

The terms which they obtained from Tippoo Saib, were the security of their private property, on delivering up to him all public; and that they should be conducted in safety to Bombay.

But these conditions depriving the garrison of the immense booty it had acquired by the taking of Bednore, a determination was taken to elude them, if possible. To this purpose the treasure that had been found in the fortress was divided among the garrison, and nothing left to the conqueror, to whom it belonged by right of capitulation. But this contrivance was quickly discovered; and being interpreted

interpreted by Tippoo Saib as an infraction of the agreement made on the part of the garrison, he resolved, from that moment, to consider the articles of the capitulation as annulled by this breach of faith.

In consequence of this resolution, the General and all his officers and men were put under confinement, and stripped of all they possessed. After suffering many indignities, they were sent, loaded with irons, to a fort up the country, where they endured a long imprisonment, accompanied with much ill-treatment and misery.

The fate of their unfortunate General has been variously reported. Both he and several of his officers were, it is said, put to death, with circumstances of great cruelty.

The fidelity of the Sepoys, and their affectionate behaviour to their European fellow-sufferers, during their common captivity, has been highly extolled by those who were witnesses of it, and represented as the noblest proof they ever gave of the sincerity of their attachment to the service and interest of those whose party they had embraced.

While this unhappy garrison was blocked up in the fort, to which they had retired after the loss of the battle their commander had so rashly hazarded, Tippoo Saib had dispatched large detachments from his army, to seize the passes in the mountains. Such a panic had struck those who guarded them, on hearing of the army's defeat at Bednore, that they were easily occupied by Tippoo Saib's troops. This terror was quickly communicated to the neighbouring garrisons. Cundapore, a place of great strength and importance, was immediately abandoned; and Onore, a post of still greater consequence, would have been relinquished in the like manner, had not Captain Torriano's intrepidity revived

revived the courage of his men, and recalled them to their duty.

The success of his arms in recovering possession of his capital, in forcing the passes, and retaking several places along the coast, encouraged Tippoo Saib to lay siege to Mangalore, in many respects the most important town he had lost on the coast of Malabar. He surrounded it with his whole army, while the operations of the siege were carried on by the French troops that had accompanied him from the Carnatic. By their exertions the garrison was reduced to great extremity, notwithstanding the gallant defence made by Major Campbell, and the bravery of the troops he commanded.

They were relieved at last from the toils and dangers of their situation, by the news that arrived in the month of July of the general peace. It proved a very unwelcome intelligence to Tippoo Saib, who now hoped in a few days to have been master of Mangalore; but was instantly forced to give up all such expectation; the French commander acquainting him, that his orders were to act no longer against the English.

This was a severe disappointment to Tippoo Saib. He expressed great impatience and indignation at being abandoned by allies on whom he had been taught to place so much reliance, and who now deserted him in the midst of an enterprize, in which they knew he could not succeed without their co-operation.

Such were the complaints of Tippoo Saib. It has even been said, that his resentment carried him so far, that he was on the point of using compulsion with the French, and forcing them to continue the operations of the siege. Certain it is, that both he and they parted upon unfriendly terms. His displeasure was much heightened by the necessity he was under of dropping the prosecution of the siege

siege of Mangalore; of which he did not regain the possession till the ensuing year; when it was restored to him, with other places on the Coast of Malabar, at the pacification that took place between him and the East-India Company.

During these transactions on the Coast of Malabar, no less a variety of military operations was carrying on along the Coast of Coromandel. From the time that Sir Eyre Coote left the command to General Stuart, to the close of the year eighty-two, this officer was employed in observing the motions of the enemy, and preventing them from becoming masters of several places at which they were directed. Relying on the goodness of his troops, he frequently sought to bring them to action; but notwithstanding their vast superiority, and the assistance of their French allies, they constantly declined it.

In the beginning of the season for action, the Governor and Council of Bengal determined to send an ample supply to the Presidency of Madras, in order to enable them to put a final and successful termination to the war, which Tippoo Saib seemed no less intent on prosecuting than his father had been. Sir Eyre Coote, who had for the benefit of his health gone by sea to Bengal, was now entrusted by them with a large sum of money, with which he embarked for Madras. But when he had almost reached his destination, he found himself in danger of being taken by two French men of war of the line. They chased him forty-eight hours; during which the solicitude and fatigue he underwent in continuing almost the whole time upon deck, occasioned a relapse into his former illness. He came safe into port, but died two days after his landing.

The loss of this illustrious General was deeply lamented. It happened at a juncture when his abilities

lities were greatly needed. The most flattering expectations had been formed, that he would have completed in the course of this campaign what he had so happily begun, and brought so much forward during the two last. His reputation was so well established, and had been carried so high by the brilliancy of his exploits during that period, that an unbounded confidence was placed in his military talents; and he was reputed by his friends and foes as great a commander as ever appeared in India.

In the mean time, as the invasion of his principal dominions had compelled Tippoo Saib to hasten with all speed to their rescue, General Stuart seized that opportunity to attack him in another quarter. On the former's leaving the Carnatic, a large force was sent under Colonel Fullarton to invade the province of Coimbatour. The success of this officer was great and rapid. He over-ran the enemy's country, taking several places of strength and consequence, and making an alarming diversion on this side of Tippoo Saib's dominions, while he was engaged so warmly and so dangerously in the center of them, and on the coast of Malabar.

The great operations that General Stuart had in view, obliged him to recall this officer in the midst of his successes. Though the retreat of Tippoo Saib from the Carnatic was an event of essential importance, and might be justly considered as a deliverance from the most formidable of all their enemies; yet the Presidency of Madras did not look upon this advantage as complete, while a powerful body of French remained possessors of so strong a hold in their neighbourhood as Cuddalore. It was now become their principal place of arms. As they did not propose, after the departure of that prince to face the English in the field, they had employed their whole attention in fortifying it to the

the utmost. Herein they had succeeded so well, that the besieging of it was considered as a very hazardous attempt, especially as the garrison was extremely numerous, and composed of as good troops as any in France; being what the French stile old corps, chosen and hardy veterans, equally brave and expert in their profession.

Nor were they alone in this service. A number of Tippoo Saib's best troops were left with them. They were at the same time plentifully provided with warlike stores, and all other necessaries; and had an artillery such as was never yet seen in India.

Previous to General Stuart's commencing the siege of Cuddalore, which was about the beginning of June, they had constructed strong lines of defence in the front of the place, one part only excepted, which was occupied by a thick wood, which they looked upon as impenetrable. But the British General was of another opinion, and began immediately, on his arrival before the town, to prepare to make his way through it. Upon which they thought it necessary to continue the lines they had begun, quite across the neck which separates the town from the Continent.

As the besieged carried on this work with uncommon expedition, General Stuart resolved immediately to attack it before they proceeded any further, judging, that when compleated, it would require immense exertions to master it by a regular and progressive approach.

To this purpose a vigorous attempt was made upon their lines, under the direction of General Bruce. Several of their batteries on a rising ground were carried, and turned against them, by the corps under Colonel Kelly. The grenadiers of the British army, who all acted upon this occasion, endeavoured with great bravery to avail themselves of

the protection of these batteries, to take possession of a redoubt, the fire of which annoyed them greatly ; but they met with so firm a reception, that it was found necessary, after a long and violent contest, to call in the line of reserve, and to change the method of attack.

The whole morning had been spent in cannonading the enemy's works, without making any impression upon them. It was now therefore determined to try the issue of an assault. The grenadiers, headed by Colonel Cathcart, and the reserve by Colonels Gordon and Stuart, advanced to the French lines, through the heaviest fire of musquetry, cannon, and grape-shot, that both they and their General, from their own acknowledgment, had ever experienced. They entered the enemy's intrenchments ; who received them at the point of their bayonets. With this weapon alone both parties now engaged, and did dreadful execution upon each other. But the French, who were continually supported by their own people from the town, overpowered at length the British troops. These however retreated in firm order, maintaining the fight with no less resolution than the enemy, who followed them out of their lines, in hopes of breaking them entirely. But the desperate stand made by these, suddenly changed the fortune of the day. Another division of the British troops perceiving the French had quitted their works, turned their flanks, and took possession of their principal redoubt. Those British troops in the mean while, which had at first retreated, repulsed in their turn the enemy, who had followed them, and who, seeing the English masters of the redoubt, retired immediately into the town. The effect produced by this success was, that the French gave up the defence of the works they had been at such pains to construct without the body of the place,

to which they now were wholly confined. The loss on the side of the assailants amounted to near one thousand killed and wounded; among the former were Major Varrenius of the Hanoverians, and Captain Lindsay of the British grenadiers, who fell at the head of their men in the first attack of the enemy's intrenchments. Near one half of the list consisted of Europeans; the greatest proportion ever yet known in that part of the world. Of the French themselves, though fighting under the protection of their lines, not less than six hundred were slain or wounded; and of these, more than forty were officers. What made this loss the more considerable, it consisted almost wholly of their French troops.

While General Stuart pressed the town of Cuddalore by land, Sir Edward Hughes lay off the harbour, to cut off its communication by sea. His fleet had lately suffered a great diminution of men, from the scurvy. The violence and contagion of the disorder had made it necessary to set numbers of them ashore, for the preservation of their lives. Of this M. de Suffrein being apprised, resolved to encounter him before they were sufficiently recovered to return to their duty.

In order to give such a decisive superiority in number of men to M. De Suffrein, as might enable him at once to board the British Squadron, M. de Bussy, who commanded at Cuddalore, sent him twelve hundred of his best troops. Thus provided, it was thought the French Admiral would not hesitate to close in upon the English; who, though seventeen of the line strong, which was two more than he had, were so weakly manned, from the cause already assigned, that the real advantage in point of strength, lay entirely on his side.

On the twentieth of June, M. De Suffrein approached the British Squadron in order of battle. Sir Edward Hughes drew up in the same manner.

The engagement began at four in the afternoon, and lasted three hours; but the French preserved a distance the more surprizing, as they knew the circumstances the English were in; by whom it was fully expected that they would have neared them sufficiently for the closest fighting.

The enemy retired in the night to Pondicherry, whither Sir Edward Hughes followed them. After having again proffered them battle, which they did not chuse to accept, he made for Madras, in order to land his sick and wounded, and take on board those who were recovered. The loss in killed and wounded in the British Squadron, amounted to five hundred and thirty; but that of the French, tho' it could not be precisely ascertained, exceeded it considerably.

Thus ended the naval operations between the English and French in the East Indies. In no part of the globe did both these nations engage with so much frequency and eagerness, nor lose so many brave officers and seamen in proportion to their shipping.

In the mean time, General Stuart felt a daily diminution of his strength before Cuddalore, partly through illness as well as through the chances of war. The besieged, who were well informed of his situation concerted a project, by which they fully confided to make him raise the siege, if not to give him a total defeat. A body of near four thousand men was landed from their Squadron, which, added to the troops in the place, was esteemed a force completely adequate to the design proposed.

The execution of it was committed to the Chevalier De Damas, an experienced and valiant officer. On the twenty-fifth of June, at the head of the regiment of Aquitaine, reported one of the best in the French service, and of which he was Colonel, and

and other troops selected from the bravest in the garrison, he sallied out by break of day upon the besiegers.

The British officers then commanding the trenches, were Colonels Gordon and Cathcart, and Major Cotgrove. As the attack was made in the dark, the French threw the British troops into some confusion at first, and took a pair of colours belonging to a corps of Sepoys. This success was but momentary. The enemy were soon faced in such a manner as to be repulsed and broken every where; and compelled, after a vigorous resistance, to give way. They were so warmly pressed, that their commander, the Chavalier De Damas, was taken with about two hundred of his countrymen; and about as many were slain.

This transaction was attended with one of the most remarkable circumstances that happened during the whole war. A corps of Sepoy grenadiers encountered the French troops opposed to them, with fixed bayonets, and overcame them. An action so striking was not only noticed with due applause, but procured that corps a more solid remuneration, a provision for themselves and their families, by the Presidencies to whose department they belonged. The only loss of consequence, was that of Major Cotgrove, by whose example and conduct these brave Indians were animated to behave in so extraordinary a manner.

The arrival of the news that peace was concluded by the belligerent powers in Europe, put an end to hostilities between their subjects in India, which had been as considerable a theatre of this extensive and destructive war, and had produced as great a variety of important events and astonishing vicissitudes of fortune, as any other quarter of the globe.

CHAP. LXX.

Independence of the United States recognised by the Dutch — Transactions in America — Provisional with the Colonies — Ships lost at Sea.

1782.

THE capture of Mr. Lautens, the late President of the Congress, when upon his voyage to Holland, and his subsequent detention in London, occasioned the business of his mission from the United States of America to devolve into the hands of Mr. John Adams, a gentleman of the province of Massachusetts, of acknowledged abilities.

He executed his commission with great diligence and sagacity. His first public step was the famous memorial presented to the States General in April eighty-one, asserting the rectitude of the American declaration of independence, together with the propriety of a strict amity and correspondence, and a firm union of interests between the United States of America and the republic of Holland.

Having, by a variety of arguments and insinuations, prepared the minds of the Dutch for a favourable acceptance of the proposals he brought from his countrymen, he presented his second memorial to the States General in the ensuing month of January. It produced the desired effect. The seven provinces of the Union having, in their several assemblies taken it into consideration, directed their respective deputies at the Hague, to concur in admitting Mr. Adams as minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America. This admission took place in the month of April eighty-two.

The success of Mr. Adams in this negotiation was highly acceptable to Congress. But it added, in fact, no great strength to the Confederacy; and
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was resented by Great Britain in a manner, which made numbers of the soundest judges of the interests of Holland, declare that country had widely erred from the track it ought to have pursued in the present juncture.

Exclusive of the losses and humiliations which the Dutch had already experienced in consequence of that measure in the East and West-Indies, as well as on their own coast, they were exposed, during the course of this year, to a variety of insults and depredations in Africa ; where many of their forts and settlements on the coast of Guinea fell into the hands of the English, to their great disgrace, and diminution of credit among the princes and nations of that extensive country.

The progress of the confederacy against Great Britain availed them but little. They seemed in some measure pointed out as the people upon whom its vengeance was to fall heaviest every where. This indeed was in the eye of politicians no more than what they were to expect from a state, which, of all others, they ought to have considered, on account of its proximity, strength, and interest, as their surest and most natural ally ; with which, from their situation in the system of Europe, they ought to have preserved the sincerest connexion, and from which, as they were always at hand to receive the most powerful and ready support, they were by that reason to apprehend the severest treatment for espousing the cause of its enemies.

They had little at the present to promise themselves from the formidable combination against their old ally. Admiral Rodney's victory over the whole naval force of France in the West Indies, had so completely broken and disconcerted the plans and designs of that power, that it seemed to have given up all ideas of annoying Great Britain in that quarter.

After that terrible defeat, instead of endeavouring to collect into one point of force the yet considerable remains of their vanquished fleet, the French appeared to be rather taken up with projects of a secondary nature, such as might distress partial branches of commerce, and annoy individuals, rather than contribute to any essential detriment of their enemy.

Of this nature was the expedition to Hudson's Bay, undertaken by a ship of seventy-four guns, and two frigates of thirty-six, under the direction of M. Delaperouse. They sailed to that remote and inhospitable region with a body of regulars and a train of artillery, as if the resistance to be expected demanded any preparation of that consequence.

The fact was, that they met with no other opposition than what arose from the nature of the climate; rocks of ice at sea with dreary and untrodden wastes at land. Wherever they could penetrate, the few forces of commercial individuals, who occupied these frozen climes, in the name of the Hudson's Bay Company, surrendered their dwellings to them at the first summons. The loss to that Company was estimated at some hundred thousand pounds.

The only action worth recording on this occasion was the humanity with which the French commander spared a sufficient quantity of provisions and stores of all kinds, for the use of those English who had withdrawn into the interior part of the country on his approach, and who, he knew, must on his departure have perished for want of them.

This leads one naturally to observe, that of all the wars recorded in ancient or modern history, the last was most conspicuously marked with generous and humane passages. However dreadful and destructive in other respects, it shewed to what a degree of refinement

refinement in nobleness of sentiments, and real civilization, the present age has risen over all the preceding.

While France was discharging its resentment on these sequestered and forlorn settlements, Spain was engaged in prosecutions of the same kind in the more southern latitudes. The Governor of the Havannah; Don Juan de Cagigal, projected an invasion of the Bahama Islands. At the head of five thousand men he attacked the isle of Providence, of which the garrison did not consist of more than three hundred and sixty. The conquest of such a place could not be difficult, and was only worthy being noticed for the liberal treatment which the garrison and inhabitants experienced from the captors, in the terms of capitulation granted to them.

The Spaniards had also taken possession of some places in the Bay of Honduras, and on the Musquito shore. But the Bay-men, assisted by their faithful negroes, a race of men long attached to them through kind usage, retook some of them with great valour. A little army was formed in conjunction with the Indians in those parts, whose enmity to the Spaniards has been inveterate and hereditary ever since the discovery of America. Headed by Colonel Despard, they attacked and carried the posts on Black River, where they made about eight hundred of the Spanish troops prisoners of war.

During these transactions on the southern Continent of America, the British Colonies in the north were now enjoying the near prospect of a termination of all their sufferings, and the fullest attainment of that political situation for which they had so warmly contended.

General Carlton, who had succeeded Sir Henry Clinton in the command of the British army in America, informed General Washington, about the commencement

commencement of May, of the resolutions taken by Parliament to forward an accommodation with the Colonies, and of the power invested in the Crown to conclude a general peace or truce with Congress, or a separate one with any of the States in particular. To accelerate these purposes, he demanded a passport for Mr. Morgan, his secretary, granting him permission to repair to Congress.

General Washington referring this request to that body, it passed a resolution in the negative. The idea of a general, or a separate negotiation with Great Britain, or of any treaty without the participation of France, was rejected with much warmth by the various provinces of the union. They unanimously concurred in declaring, that no accommodation should take place that was not founded on the general consent of the United States, and conformably to the stipulations made with their allies. The state of Pennsylvania, in particular, resolved, that whoever agreed to a separate treaty with Great Britain, should be reputed foes to the union; and that any proffers on the part of Great Britain to the prejudice of their alliance with France, ought to be rejected with scorn. It even passed a declaration, that Congress itself possessed no right to frame any act tending to abrogate the supreme authority and independence of any province of the union.

In conformity to these sentiments, Congress declared at the same time, that no amicable conference could be held with any commissioners from Britain, without a preliminary acknowledgment of the independency of America, or withdrawing its fleets and armies from that country.

In order to preclude all hope of compassing any separate treaty, Congress strongly recommended that a watchful eye should be kept against the entrance of emissaries from Britain into the United States;

States; that no individuals coming among them, under flags of truce, should be allowed any communication with the inhabitants not relating to the business that brought them; and even that no person coming from any part of the British dominions, should, while the war lasted, have admission into any of the United States.

In the mean time, however, the work of peace was proceeding forward in Europe with great expedition. The British ministry, which had the pacification with the Colonies most at heart, came to a provisional settlement with the American commissioners, so early as the end of November eighty-two.

But this agreement, which was to be definitive between Britain and America, as soon as that between the former and France could be concluded, Great Britain relinquished all rights of sovereignty over the Thirteen United Colonies, and acknowledged their independence in the fullest and most explicit terms. The boundaries between the respective territories of the contracting parties were settled in the most circumstantial manner. All those vast regions included between Nova Scotia and Canada, the Five Great Lakes, and the river Mississippi, were ceded to the United States of America. The fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and all other places upon the American coast, to be enjoyed in common by Britain and America.

When the session of Parliament was opened on the fifth of December, much altercation took place, on account of this provisional treaty. It was complained, that an irrevocable and unconditional recognition of American independency had been made, without a sufficient compensation for so liberal and vast a concession. It was urged, that by this measure the honour and interest of the kingdom in America had been abandoned in a manner unworthy of

of the spirit and magnanimity which had so long characterised the British nation.

To the first of these objections it was answered, that the acknowledgment of the independence of America was so entirely connected with the treaty depending between Great Britain and France, that were this latter to refuse equitable conditions of peace, the provisional treaty with America would necessarily become void.

To the second objection it was replied, that when the terms upon which the pacification in view was to take place, were duly and impartially investigated, it would fully appear that no concession had been made derogatory to the dignity of the British nation. Its welfare had been properly consulted, and every arrangement taken to obviate all reasonable complaints on that account.

A variety of other discussions relating to this subject employed the abilities of the new ministry and its opponents: but though they were conducted, as usual, with much warmth, and not a little acrimony, yet the main object itself was of too much importance to be affected by any collateral considerations: all parties concurred in the persuasion that no impediment should be thrown in the way of peace.

The like sentiments prevailed among the enemies of Great Britain. They had now waged a five years war in conjunction. Though they came fresh into the quarrel, that was then risen to its height between her and America, still this advantage had not availed them. Notwithstanding the incumbrances with which Great Britain was loaded, deprived of her Colonies, and detrimented by subsequent losses, she yet had proved strong enough to resist them.—Her strength and her resources seemed yet in a vigorous condition. The spirit of her councils was unimpaired, and her people, however divided among them-

themselves in regard to the American war, continued inflexibly resolute in the determination to face all other enemies.

These considerations could not fail having due weight when laid in the balance against their own circumstances. France, the great pillar of the confederacy against Britain, began to feel an alarming diminution at home of the means to maintain it on a strong and efficient footing. The expences of the war lay heaviest upon her, as she had not only her own fleets and armies to support; but was called upon by America for pecuniary, as well as other supplies. Her trade had materially suffered in the beginning of the rupture; and the many individuals whose affairs had been essentially injured at this period, had not yet recovered from their embarrassments. She had been compelled, in order to stand her ground, to make great reformations in many departments, and to suppress a multitude of places hitherto esteemed necessary for the splendor and dignity of the French court. With all these exertions and sacrifices, she still experienced perpetual failures in every attempt of consequence. Even in the European seas, though assisted by the whole naval power of Spain, she had not been able to make any impression on the coast or the marine of Britain, or to prevent the usual and established course of its commerce. Her credit of late began to totter in the apprehension of the shrewdest and best informed. The Americans were frequently complaining of the tardiness of her remittances, and ascribing many of the disasters that attended them, to her deficiencies in that particular.

Spain, the other great member of the confederacy, was considered by the most intelligent, as having acted a part upon this occasion totally inconsistent with the maxims she ought to have adopted respecting America. She saw an empire arising in the

the north of that hemisphere, of which the prosperity and greatness were evidently incompatible with the safety of her vast possessions in that portion of the globe. The soundest politicians were, as they still continue, uniformly of this opinion. But in this, as in many other instances, the interest of the Spanish nation gave way to ministerial intrigues. The recovery of Jamaica in the new world, and of Minorca in the old, and above all, of Gibraltar, was described as a compensation that would amply repay the trouble and expence that might be occasioned by uniting with France in support of the British Colonies. This measure was held out as one that would be attended with little difficulty, when jointly and vigorously pursued by the collective power of France and Spain. Allured by these motives, and swayed, no doubt, by a regard for the Family Compact, the Spanish Court entered into this combination against Great Britain, without fully perceiving its dangerous tendency. The capture of Minorca had lately revived the spirits of the Spanish nation; but they were soon after much more depressed by the failure of their arms before Gibraltar. This, with the relief of that fortress in the face and defiance of the whole naval strength of the House of Bourbon, together with the preceding defeat of the noblest fleet that France had ever sent to the West Indies, were events that convinced the ministry of Spain how erroneously it had been led to expect that the humiliation of Great Britain would be a work of facility, in the difficult circumstances wherein she was involved by the dispute with her refractory Colonies.

Holland, the last member of the confederacy in point of power, as well as of time, was that which was now most desirous to see the quarrel terminated. Never had that state exhibited such features of debility as at the present. Its arsenals at home were empty, and its dependencies abroad in no circumstances

stances of defence. The remembrance of the past glories of that famous and formerly potent republic was all that now remained. It was with secret pleasure that its ancient enemies now viewed it severed through their machinations from its old and natural ally. Instead of that honourable and independent part it was wont to take among contending kings and nations, it was now, through the imprudence of some, and the time-serving venality of others, reduced to act in subserviency a part so those two powers precisely, from which it had been used to experience the greatest affronts and mortifications, and had been treated in the days of their respective triumphs and prosperities, with all manner of tyranny and oppression. As it now depended entirely upon France for the protection of its foreign possessions, so it was, of course implicitly guided by the directions of the French ministry in all the measures adopted by its government. In this precarious and fallen state, the Dutch could not strictly be said to have a will of their own; and could only be considered as the passive instruments of France.

Such were the reciprocal situations of the various belligerent powers towards the close of the year eighty-two; by which it appears, that however great their ambition, or keen their resentments, they were all equally desirous of peace, of which it was indeed difficult to decide which of them stood most in need.

Among the various events which marked the latter season of this memorable year, was the loss by storms at sea of some of the largest ships in the British navy. They were five in number; and part of a convoy that accompanied a large fleet of merchantmen from Jamaica; numbers of which perished on the same occasion. Four of these five ships carried seventy-four guns, and one of them an hundred

hundred and ten; this was the *Ville de Paris*, the noblest naval trophy ever won in battle from an enemy. Of the complement of this and another ship, the *Glorieux*, also a prize taken on the famous twelfth of April, only one man had the singular good fortune to escape to tell their melancholy fate. The people of the *Ramilies* were saved by the merchantmen in company; and those of the *Hector*, by accidentally falling in with a vessel when their own was on the point of sinking.

The fortune of the *Hector* was in every respect striking. Her condition was so bad on her leaving *Jamaica*, that she could only mount fifty guns instead of seventy-four, and she had but a third of her crew. After parting company with the fleet, from her inability to keep up with it, she fell in with two French frigates of the largest size, on their way to North America. They carried each forty-four guns, and three hundred men, and had a number of officers and soldiers on board, who were going to join the French troops on that continent.

The condition of the *Hector* was too visible to escape their observation. They attacked her vigorously, not imagining she could make any effectual resistance. The action continued four hours; during which, from her disabled state, she could not exert herself to any advantage, and lay continually exposed to the raking fire of the enemy. But the intrepidity of her people supplied all deficiencies. Captain *Bourchier*, who commanded her, being grievously wounded, Captain *Drury* succeeded him, and behaved with equal gallantry. Both officers and men concurred in making the noblest defence that has ever been recorded of people in parallel circumstances. Surprised at this unexpected opposition, the French commanders, who clearly perceived the smallness of their numbers,

bers, made an endeavour to board them, but were repulsed with so much resolution, that they lost all hope of mastering them, and drew off, to the great surprize of the English, who fought much more from a point of honour than from any expectation of frustrating the enemy's attempt against a ship that was already a wreck, and could not have been preserved had they taken her.

The tempestuous weather that followed, found her so shattered, that she was utterly unable to stand it. After making every effort to save her that human industry and perseverance could produce, water and provisions failing, and the men falling dead through the incessant labour that was requisite to keep the ship from going down, a vessel was happily descried making towards them. The captain's name was John Hill, whose noble behaviour on this occasion well deserves commemoration. Though his own vessel was but a snow, he took on board the whole remaining company of the Hector, amounting to upwards of two hundred men; throwing part of his cargo overboard to accommodate them with sufficient room, and generously sharing his provisions with them, to the imminent hazard of being reduced to want them himself. This danger was so real, and he was so near experiencing the calamity to which he had exposed himself, that the last cask of water was broached on the day that land was discovered.

But the fate of the Centaur, Captain Inglefield, was much more lamentable. After enduring the fury of one of the most dreadful storms that ever was remembered, and striving with unavailing efforts to preserve her, only twelve of the ship's company were able to save themselves from the severe destiny of the others, who were all drowned. They fortunately got into the only remaining boat; in which, through innumerable perils and distresses,

they traversed the space of near eight hundred miles in the Atlantic ocean, without compass or quadrant, and with a blanket for a sail. Their food consisted of two biscuits divided among them every twenty-four hours: their drink during the same space, of as much water to every man as the neck of a wine bottle broken off would hold.

Captain Inglefield's behaviour in this deplorable situation, was accompanied with a calmness and fortitude that contributed effectually to keep up the spirit and resolution of his companions. Instead of giving the least countenance to grief and despondency, he animated them by the cheerfulness of his own deportment; and to chase away the gloom that might accrue from too much silence and pensiveness, he prevailed upon them to entertain each other every evening with songs and stories.

This dreadful trial lasted sixteen days; at the expiration of which, when the last division of water and biscuit had been made, and all hopes were fled, to their inexpressible joy they discovered land. This was the Portuguese island of Fayal, where they had the happiness to land safely that night.

C H A P. LXXI.

Parliamentary Debates on the Treaty of Peace.

1782, 1783.

THE provisional treaty with America, though containing a multiplicity of concessions to the Colonists, was generally approved by all parties.—The temper of the nation had so long been soured by that contest, and by the repeated and fruitless endeavours to bring it to a favourable issue, that people were become averse even to the very discussion of the subject, and heartily desirous to resign the Americans to their own management, in the fullest latitude they could require.

For this reason the articles of that treaty met with almost an implicit approbation. The treaty itself, though it dismembered the British empire, was considered as a deliverance from endless perplexity.—The people of America were now converted from the best and warmest of friends, into the most rancorous and inveterate foes. The conduct of their rulers exhibited on every occasion the most unequivocal proofs of an irreconcilable disposition. Peace was an object to which they were inclined in common with their allies from mere necessity; but it was clear, by the whole tenour of their conduct, that resentment and vengeance were the prevailing maxims throughout the American continent.

In the full conviction that such were the inclinations of the Americans, the people of Great Britain were become almost indifferent to a connection, which they were clearly satisfied could not be founded on sincerity; and deemed it sufficient for their

own interest that a pacification should take place at the present between both parties, leaving to future contingencies the renewal of their ancient friendship.

But while they consented with so much willingness and facility to the demands of America, they beheld with a jealous and disapproving eye the advantages resulting to France from the preliminary treaty, concluded with the ministers of that Court on the twentieth of January, eighty-three.

By the articles of that treaty the French acquired, together with the isles of St. Pierre and Miquelon, an extensive tract of sea for their fishery, stretching from Cape St. John, upon the eastern coast of Newfoundland, round the north part of it, to Cape Ray, on its western side.

France restored to Great Britain all her acquisitions during the war, in the West Indies, excepting Tobago, which the latter ceded to her, restoring at the same time St. Lucia.

On the coast of Africa cession was made to France of all the forts and settlements on the river Senegal, and in the neighbouring parts; for which France returned those on the river Gambia.

The restorations to France in the East Indies were the most considerable, being all the places she had lost during the war, to which were added some considerable districts near them. In this part of the world France had no equivalent to restore.

The most remarkable article of this treaty was that one by which Great Britain consented that the stipulations concerning Dunkirk, formerly made at the peace of Utrecht, should be annulled, and that France should be at liberty to dispose of that place in any manner she should think proper.

The treaty with Spain did not meet with more approbation than that with France. Besides Minorca in Europe, and West Florida in America, already taken by the Spanish arms, East Florida

was

was yielded to that crown ; for which the Bahamas, already retaken by the English, were the only return.

These treaties underwent a strict and severe examination in both Houses of Parliament. Four hundred and fifty members were present in the House of Commons, on the day appointed to take them into consideration.

The abilities of Ministry and opposition were carried on this occasion to their fullest extent. The attack and defence of the peace called forth their respective exertions in a manner that had seldom been preceded, either in variety and copiousness, or in strength and animation of argument.

It was asserted on the part of Ministry, that the critical situation of pecuniary affairs in this country demanded an immediate termination of the war. The national debt was now risen to the enormous sum of two hundred and fifty millions ; for which an interest of near nine millions and a half was annually paid. This interest, together with the civil list, and peace establishment, would swell the national expences to little less than fifteen millions a year, of which near two millions and a half were to be raised by additional taxes ; those already existing falling short of that sum.

Our enemies, it had been said, were in a still worse condition in that respect ; but allowing the truth of that assertion, the difference of government militated so much in their favour, that granting they would incur great distresses by prosecuting the war, we should experience much greater, were a public bankruptcy to ensue. The popular maxims of our constitution would throw us into universal confusion, while the habitual submission to the supreme authority of the state, would, in the midst of their hardships and sufferings, keep them in tranquillity and order.

To these allegations Opposition replied, that it was now many years since a variety of speculations had been made upon the public funds in this country. It had been predicted more than half a century ago, that they could not with safety be extended beyond the limits at which they stood at that period. Very wise and ingenious men had reasoned against their increase in that stile. Even Sir Robert Walpole, an able calculator, seemed to coincide with that opinion. But experience had shewn the futility of all these apprehensions. True it was our burthens were heavy ; but they were borne with an acquiescence far superior to that which was found among the subjects of the inimical powers. In America, the various states composing the union were full of discontents on account of the taxes laid upon them. Not only the commonalty, but their very rulers declared against them, most of the provincial assemblies having refused to pay the last assessment ordered by Congress. In Spain, the people were known to be extremely averse to that profusion of expence which had taken place in the operations of the present war, and complained loudly of the oppressive imposts established for those purposes. In France, the public was no less clamorous on those accounts. Remonstrances from several of the most respectable corporate bodies had been presented to ministry against the continuance of the war, founded on the inability of the kingdom to prosecute it.

The state of the British funds was no secret to the enemy. Were the pecuniary circumstances of this country in the desperate condition in which they had been represented by the advocates of ministry, the enemy would not have been so ready to enter into negotiation. But the fact was, they were conscious that the intrinsic strength of this nation was adequate to a much longer maintenance
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of the contest than was consistent with their own interest, or with their ability to support it; and for that reason, they were become more tractable than they had threatened to be. Had ministry known how to avail themselves of the present temper and circumstances of our adversaries, these must, however numerous and ambitiously inclined, have consented to much more favourable terms than those which had been obtained.

The next point that came into debate was, the situation of this kingdom respecting its home-defence at land. The deficiencies in the various corps of regulars and militia were represented such, that thirty thousand men would be wanted to supply them. The country was so exhausted, or the people so unwilling to enlist, that hardly any recruits could be procured. In such circumstances no offensive operations could take place. Even on a supposition that men could have been obtained from Germany, it would not have been possible to transport them beyond the Channel, while our enemies occupied the seas with such numerous fleets.

The answer to this was a direct contradiction of the whole. Great Britain and Ireland, it was firmly asserted, abounded with men fit for war, but who were invincibly averse to serve against the Americans. In Germany levies might with money have been easily raised; and there was abundance of shipping, both for their conveyance and protection, to any part of the globe.

The condition of the navy was next adverted to. It was described by Ministry as debilitated in a most alarming degree; hardly able to defend the coasts of Britain, and protect the most necessary branches of her commerce, much less to give effectual annoyance to the enemy; to whom, in point of number, its inferiority was striking. One hundred sail

of the line was its utmost amount ; and of these some were old and out of repair, and several were feebly manned. An addition of six was all that could have been made in the ensuing spring.— But what was this force, when compared to that of the enemy ? France and Spain counted already one hundred and thirty sail of the line ; to reinforce which ten more were in forwardness ; and Holland would join them with twenty-five.

It was mere illusion to cherish any hope of contending with so decisive a superiority. The distribution of this force was no less formidable. Had not peace taken place, a fleet of forty sail of the line lay ready at Cadiz, to accompany a fleet of transports, with sixteen thousand men to the West-Indies ; where twenty ships of the line were waiting their arrival, with as many thousand troops. In what manner were the dependencies of Great Britain in those parts prepared to resist such an armament ? Our naval strength on that station consisted of no more than forty-six sail of the line. This certainly would not have sufficed to prevent the enemy from making the attempts they had projected ; and wherever they might effect a landing, we had nothing to oppose to such an army as theirs. Instead of making an impression on the enemy in that quarter, was it not highly probable that they would have invaded our own possessions, and rendered the present year much more calamitous to us than the preceding one had been to them.

In the mean time, we had every reason to apprehend, that the naval superiority of France in the East Indies would still continue. The reinforcements from Britain would at most give us an equality. But that was not sufficient to obstruct effectually the attempts of the enemy upon a coast so widely extended, and where some place might always be found for the landing of troops. Those which
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the French had already set on shore, proved how difficult it would be to prevent others from following them. The force they had now with Hyder Ally exceeded the number of Europeans in the service of Britain; and more were daily expected. The immense armies which that prince would bring into the field, aided by the skill and discipline of his French allies, and by the actual strength they would carry to his assistance, were objects of the most serious consideration. If he had by means of his own forces, been able to over-run the British territories in those parts, what reasonable hope could be formed that we should be able to resist him, when seconded by troops and officers, equal in valour and experience to our own, and superior in number?

When we turned our attention home, the prospect was truly alarming. The Dutch were now exerting themselves with all the diligence and industry that had always marked their character. Their motions had hitherto been slow, in hope of a reconciliation with their old friends; but that expectation being entirely vanished, the partizans of France had now the direction of the Councils of that Republic; and would put forth its whole strength at sea unthwarted and uncontrouled. Without extending it beyond any probable bounds, it must, as soon as they applied themselves with warmth to its re-establishment, become shortly a formidable addition to the numerous fleets which France and Spain intended to employ in the Channel.

The combination of three such maritime powers, ought to awake us from all delusive expectations of maintaining the empire of the sea. Without disputing the professional eminence of our officers and seamen, human abilities had their limits; beyond which they must necessarily yield to superior force.

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That of our enemies was such, that it would crush us by its very weight.

If we pondered duly, and with the coolness becoming the criticalness of our situation, on these various objects, we should find that, notwithstanding the sea was emphatically stiled our element, it was at present a field of danger; upon which Prudence, on beholding the irresistible strength of our innumerable enemies, bids us beware from venturing with inconsiderateness and temerity; while we had it yet in our power to make a timely and honourable retreat.

Opposition animadverted with great asperity on all these assertions. The condition of the British navy was affirmed to be, both with respect to goodness and number, more flourishing and formidable than at any preceding period during the war. It consisted of one hundred and ten ships of the line, in excellent order, while the navies of France and Spain amounted only to fifteen more; and were known at the same time to be much inferior in soundness of construction, and every other requisite for service. What additions might be made to this force in the course of the year, was a matter of uncertainty and mere conjecture. After two years of preparations and menaces, the Dutch marine still continued very inconsiderable; and the augmentation of the French and Spanish fleets had always been over-rated.

Experience alone could be relied on in cases of this nature; and the events of the last year had shewn that, with a naval force inferior to that we now possess, we had succeeded against the enemy, though stronger then than they would be this present year. Britain had at this hour such officers and men in its fleets, as all the navies of Europe could not equal. Repeated experiment had established their superiority beyond contradiction. Notwithstanding

standing the enemy exceeded us in number, this was no earnest of victory either at land or sea. Skill and bravery were the only sure means of success. In the first, British seamen had no competitors; and in the second, few equals.

The plan of naval operations, projected for the subsequent season, would have not only frustrated the designs of the enemy in the West-Indies, but have enabled our commanders on that station to act on the offensive. A fleet of between fifty and sixty sail of the line had been provided for the West-Indies; which was surely a strength adequate for any purpose in that quarter; and which, without presumption, it might be said, the enemy would not dare to meet.

The accounts from the East-Indies amply confirmed how well we were founded in the good opinion we entertained of our people. With a continual superiority in number of ships and men, the French Commander there, though a man of unquestionable abilities, and animated by a particular aversion to the English, had not been able to obtain any advantages in combat. It was highly probable that, considering the equality in shipping, that would have taken place this year in that quarter, the British Admiral would have been complete master of the sea.

As to the apprehensions so strongly expressed of Hyder Ally and his French auxiliaries, they were far from being justly founded. The power of that Prince had been effectually broken in the two preceding campaigns; his best and veteran troops were almost destroyed, and his personal abilities were at present his chief dependence in the field. The officers and men now fighting for Britain in the East Indies were tried soldiers, of invincible valour, and consummate experience. The natives trained up in the British service, had profited so well by the example

example and instruction of our people, that they behaved invariably upon every occasion with no less firmness and knowledge of their duty. They constituted, together with our troops, a body of men far superior in every military respect to any thing the French could produce in India.

Without disparaging the French, it might be confidently asserted, that they had no commanders in India to be placed on a competition with our own. Their principal strength lay in the skillfulness of their engineers. Herein however they did no more than equal us. But in other branches of military science, saving the mere regularity of discipline, we far exceeded them. Our officers and generals, by their long residence in that country, had so many opportunities of improving their talents for war, that our army there abounded with men signally qualified for every department in their profession.

Though numbers of the French officers and soldiers had served in Europe, yet every country was attended with some peculiarities, that gave considerable advantages to those who were acquainted with them. It was from local difficulties alone that the efforts of Great Britain in America had failed. By the same reason it was to be inferred, that the French would meet with no less obstructions in India, which might through the courage and expertness of our troops be rendered insurmountable.

Thus, upon a candid review of our situation in India, it appeared nowise on the decline. Whatever calamities had befallen us through the unseasonable discords among those who had the management of our affairs, these were in a fair way of being restored to their former prosperity and splendor. Instead of feeling any alarm for the safety of these important possessions, we ought therefore to look upon them as the securest of any. To this it might be added,

added, that while they continued in our hands, they would always furnish the most abundant resources of any foreign branches of our commerce. It was by their Eastern acquisitions the Dutch had formerly risen to such a pitch of opulence and grandeur. It was by depriving us of our vast dependencies in that part of the globe the French proposed to cut off the great sources of our wealth, knowing them to be a principal means of supporting the war. But as experience had so clearly demonstrated that we were able to retain them in defiance of their power and machinations, they ought, in lieu of being the subject of our fears, to operate as an inducement resolutely to continue facing our enemies, till we had brought them to terms honourable and satisfactory to this country.

Though the French had contributed so successfully to divest us of America, they must not expect to find the like number of friends and assistants in India: here we should meet them on a more equal footing. They would be compelled to fight us on neutral ground, where we might hope for decisive successes, and not endure the mortification of gaining victories to no effect.

While this review of our affairs afforded so much encouragement, the prospects nearer home were far from unfavourable. The defect of strength for Channel service had been much insisted on; but the combined efforts of France and Spain, when at their highest, had been found inadequate to the execution of their threats. They had been repeatedly foiled by less exertions than those they would have had to encounter this year. The fleet for home defence was to have consisted of between thirty and forty of the stoutest ships in the British navy, manned with the primest sailors, and commanded by the ablest officers in the nation.

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When all these circumstances were laid together; when it was considered how frequently the power of the enemy had been proved insufficient for the accomplishing of its objects, how much it had been always exaggerated, how customary it was become to under-rate our own, and yet how constantly it persisted in facing and overturning all the most material attempts of the enemy; when every returning year brought fresh instances of our success in repelling them at home, and of our abilities to face them abroad, when, after all their vaunts, they had not made the least impression upon our coast, while we, on the other hand, not only fought them in every other quarter of the globe, but had resolutely bid them defiance on their own shores, when, in despite of their boasted superiority, we had thrice relieved Gibraltar, the first time by the defeat and destruction of the fleet sent to oppose us, the second by compelling them to fly into port, and the third by braving the whole united navies of the House of Bourbon, in a manner that astonished all Europe, and that was confessedly equal to the noblest victory, when such things had been done, when the great commanders that had effected them were still in being, while the spirit and capacity that had so gloriously sustained the honour and interest of the nation, still subsisted un sullied and unimpaired, with what face could men pretend to inculcate apprehensions and despondency? What valid argument could be alledged for not continuing to place our confidence in those who had fought so bravely and successfully for their country, wherever they had been trusted with its service and defence.

From the general consideration of the situation of Great Britain, in regard to her finances, army and navy, the debate next adverted to the particular articles of the peace.

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It was asserted by Ministry, that a fair and impartial review of these, would shew the treaty by which the war had been terminated, to be fully adequate to the expectations of all reasonable men:

The Newfoundland fishery was now properly divided. Cession had been made to the French of an exclusive right of this fishery within specified limits; to which they were henceforth to be confined. By this measure an end was put to the dissensions that so frequently arose between both nations, when they carried it on conjointly in the same places. The share assigned to France was not however comparable to that retained by England, either in extent or value, as had been amply verified by those who were competent judges.

The restoration of the two isles of St. Pierre and Miquelon was an article of no consequence. They could be of no service to us; and would by no means enable the French, in time of war, to molest our fisheries. They could easily be reduced; as on a survey it appeared, that no fortification could be erected on them, sufficiently strong to resist the fire of any ship of force.

The articles relating to the West-Indies were clearly to the advantage of Great Britain. St. Christopher, Nevis, and Montserrat, St. Vincent, Dominico, and Granada, now restored to Great Britain by the peace, were unquestionably of much greater importance than those of St. Lucia and Tobago; both which ought at the same time to be considered as restorations rather than cessions. Tobago, previous to the peace of sixty-three, belonged to France; to which we now returned it, together with our late conquest of St. Lucia. This latter island, though commanding a view of Martinico, could not be placed on a footing with Dominico; which, in case of hostilities, would effectually interrupt the communication between Marti-
nico

nico and Guadaloupe, the two principal French islands in those seas.

The possession of Tobago ought, it had been said, to have been insisted on, upon account of its abundant produce of cotton; an article of such necessity in our manufactures. But they had long flourished before the acquisition of Tobago; and would continue to flourish no less, while we preserved our other West-India islands, and were able to afford the same price for the cotton of this isle as we did before.

By the cessions in Africa, France regained possession of the river Senegal and its appendages, together with the island of Goree; for which she restored the settlements on the river Gambia, together with the same participation in the gum trade that Britain had enjoyed before the year fifty-five. This trade, it was said, no nation could monopolise: as much of it would remain to the English as they had ever had, or could want, without the necessity of being at the expence of so much money, and what was infinitely more valuable to this country, so many valuable lives, for the retention of places which, experience had shown, would not prevent other trading nations from sharing in the productions of that coast.

In the East-Indies concessions had been made to the French very beneficial to them, but by no means injurious to Great Britain. The only advantages they had gained, beside the restoration of what had been taken from them, were some districts to render Pondicherry and Karical places of more convenience than heretofore; and the permission to drain the marshes round Chandernagore, by incircling it with a ditch, to carry off the stagnated waters to the neighbouring rivers. Allowing the French to be gainers by the peace in the East Indies, still the precarious situation of our
affairs

affairs in those parts, at the time it was made, required some condescension on our part. But notwithstanding these concessions, the power of the English in the East-Indies rested on such a firm foundation, in consequence of the arrangements produced by the peace, that no danger could possibly be apprehended from their European enemies, any more than from the country powers at variance with them.

That article of the treaty, by which France was re-invested with the power of acting without interference at Dunkirk, was defended from the absolute nullity of the restraints imposed upon her, owing to the negligence of every Ministry in Britain, since the peace of Utrecht, when they took place, to procure their observance. This inattention proved of how little consequence they were esteemed. The truth was, that no expence or labour could render the harbour of Dunkirk of that importance to France, and danger to Britain, as had been represented. The chief aim of the French Court, was to wipe off the disgrace of being subject at home to the controul of a foreign power. A request of this nature ought not to be denied to a nation, with which we were upon terms of reconciliation, especially as no detriment could reasonably be apprehended from a compliance with its wishes in a point, where its honour was solely concerned.

After this review of the treaty with France, that with Spain was recapitulated in the like manner. To this monarchy restitutions were made of possessions originally her own; and of which the utility to this country was far from being of any material importance. Minorca was an useless burthen in peace, and in war lay exposed to the whole circumjacent dominions of the House of Bourbon. An immense tract of sea was to be crossed, before any

succours could reach that island. Experience had shewn, that from this circumstance alone it was untenable. In the war preceding that which was just concluded, France had captured it, when we had her alone to contend with, and preserved, at the same time, our naval superiority every where.

The Floridas indeed began to thrive; but after twenty years of labour and painful attention, notwithstanding their vast extent, their produce was hardly deserving of attention, when compared with that of many of our smallest dependencies. The balance of that branch of commerce might possibly amount to about fifty thousand pounds in our favour; but was that an object worthy of contention, when so many superior interests were at stake? Geographical dimensions excepted, the Floridas had little to boast: They made a figure on the map; but the possession of near three centuries, during which the Spaniards had remained undisturbed masters of those countries, had experimentally proved that their intrinsic value must be very inconsiderable; or that the Spaniards knew not how to improve them. In such hands, therefore, as they would be of little service to their owners, they could be of no detriment to Great Britain.

On revising, without prejudice, the concessions to the House of Bourbon, they were much greater in appearance than in reality: they did not leave the French or Spaniards possessed of more direct advantages than they could call their own before the war. Their commerce would receive no other increase than what might accrue from their intercourse with the United States of America. But these knew their own interest too well, and pursued it too keenly, to open a correspondence with any nation from which it was not clear they could derive profit. There was no country upon earth from which they could be so well supplied as in Britain,
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with most, if not with all of those articles which they received from her antecedently to the war. The extensive freedom which they enjoyed in almost every channel of commerce, previous to the breaking out of the late troubles, hardly left any others to be opened.

Those who imagined that views of resentment would influence their commercial proceedings, knew little of human nature. Interest alone was the foundation of all trade. Interest was a motive too powerful to resist where whole nations were concerned; as it would breed division among friends, it would also reconcile the bitterest of foes. If France and Spain, in their assistance of America against Britain, had been prompted by the hope of monopolising the trade of its Colonies, they would find themselves egregiously mistaken. They would share no more of it than was perfectly consistent with the conveniency of the Americans, who certainly would, like other people, be guided in those matters by the mere prospect of gain, divested of all other considerations.

The disquisition on the treaty with America occasioned no less heat than the former; both parties were equally vehement in their respective attempts to justify or to reprobate it.

The ground of defence on the side of ministry was, that the earnest desire of Parliament to put an end to the contest, had guided them in every step they had taken in the framing of that treaty. It was universally allowed to be an indispensable measure in the circumstances of the nation. All that remained for them to do was to make it as consistent with the dignity and welfare of Great Britain as the difficulties of the time would permit.

The country ceded to the United States was doubtless of a great extent; but the retention of any more than had been reserved to Great Britain, would have proved in its immediate consequence a source

of continual jars and dissensions. The territories of both parties could never in that case have been clearly and indisputably ascertained; whereas by the present division of that immense continent, each party knew precisely its own share. The limits of both were now marked by mountains, rivers, and lakes of such magnitude, that it was impossible to mistake them.

In this cession, however, the interest of this country had been duly consulted. The far greater portion of the fur trade, the most important one in the northern tracts of the American continent, had been preserved. We should enjoy it nearly without rivals, as it lay almost entirely on that side of the lakes that belonged to the British division.

The profits derivable from the possession of these northern districts, had been much overrated. Canada itself, for instance, did not yield to Great Britain a balance in trade in any wise equivalent to its cost: the expences incurred on account of that Province had for several years amounted to eight hundred thousand pounds annually; while the exports to it did not exceed the imports from it so much as four hundred thousand pounds.

It had been complained that the space of land included in the cessions to the United States, amounted to eighteen thousand square miles. But it ought to be no less noticed, that much of this was comprehended in mountainous and uncultivable wastes, which no industry could improve; and that a large proportion of the rest, would, from its situation, probably remain uncultivated for ages. But exclusive of these considerations, the experience of the present times manifested the danger of distant colonisations. Were we to people them from home, it would prove a measure of much more expence than profit; were they to be assigned to the American Loyalists, the rancour and animosity subsisting be-

tween them and their countrymen would unavoidably involve us in a short time in another quarrel.— By leaving these lands to the American States, the same disposition to tillage and rural occupations would remain, which had so long employed the Colonists in such branches of labour as had rendered them subservient to our commercial views. In proportion as they extended their back-settlements, new demands would arise for a multitude of those articles which either were not fabricated in America, or could be procured on more advantageous terms from abroad. While land might be obtained with facility, the natural propensity of mankind to cultivate and dwell upon their own possessions, would render agriculture the principal and favourite pursuit of the inhabitants of the American continent, and furnish an abundant source of employment for those commercial nations with whom they maintained a correspondence. Among these we should for a variety of reasons needless to be specified, retain much the largest share.

Penobscot, a tract of land to the north of New England, had since it had been ceded to the Americans, been represented as remarkably productive of timber fit for the largest masts; but those who had officially surveyed the woods of that country, were ready to certify that they did not produce trees of sufficient dimensions for those purposes.

Censures had been passed on the liberty granted to the Americans of fishing not only on the banks of Newfoundland, but also on the coasts of the British dependencies in America. But that liberty did not in the least interfere with our interest, or with our arrangements in that country. There were two fishing seasons, the winter and summer; the first from their situation they necessarily enjoyed wholly to themselves, undisturbed by any other nation.— Of course they carried on their fisheries at that time

wherever they thought proper, without the possibility of hindrance or molestation. But during the second season the advantages were all on our side, from our possession of Newfoundland, where none but ourselves were entitled to the drying and curing of fish. It was in consequence of this benefit that we stood in no need of the liberty of carrying on any fishery on the coast of the countries belonging to the American States.

Much clamour had been raised against that article of the treaty by which the Congress was to recommend the case of the Loyalists to the consideration of the different states composing the American confederacy. But it was not in the power of Congress to engage for more. It was the stile in which they had uniformly addressed the separate members of the union, ever since it had commenced. The jealousy of the respective states was such, that no other had been used. It always had however met with the fullest deference, and would doubtless, in the present instance, command as much respect as in all others.

The case of the Loyalists was certainly deserving of the most particular attention. No people in the British dominions were more worthy of the notice and care of government: but had not the recommendation of Congress been accepted, the war must have continued; the option lay solely between these two alternatives. It might appear ungenerous to give up this point to the American Commissioners, as we seemed thereby to abandon to the discretion of the enemy those who had devoted themselves to our service with so much zeal and fidelity. But the fact was, they were by no means relinquished. Were the requisitions to be made by Congress in their favour disregarded by the respective states, there still remained the native generosity and gratitude of the British nation. To this they well
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knew they could always appeal, with a certainty of meeting with a refuge from adversity. The burthens of this country were great, but its magnanimity was still greater. It bore them with alacrity for the support of its honour, and would chearfully add to them for the relief of those who had faithfully stood by it in the day of trial. But without answering for more than could be done, the Loyalists might depend on the amplest protection in this country, should their own refuse them a mild and honourable treatment. A very moderate proportion of the immense sums annually lavished in hostilities against the Americans, would suffice to place those among them who had suffered for their loyalty to Britain, on as comfortable a footing here as they had ever enjoyed at home. It was asserted on this occasion, that less than half of the expenditure in one American campaign, would be adequate to the most generous compensation that could be desired by the Loyalists. It would indemnify them to the full for all their losses; and a residence in their own country excepted, would render their condition as prosperous as ever.

Such being the real state of the case, nothing could be more illiberal and unjust, than to blame those who had conducted the business of the peace, for having concluded it without insisting peremptorily on a restoration of the Loyalists to the unbounded possession of all the rights and properties they had enjoyed antecedently to the contest. They who exclaimed with so much vehemence against this part of the treaty, ought to be told, that no expedient was left untried to obtain the fullest restitution of the Loyalists to their primitive situation. This point was urged preferably to all others. So keen and ardent were the British Commissioners upon this subject, that the very negociation itself was suspended, and was once near being finally broken

ken off, on the American Commissioners declaring, that it was not in their power to proceed any further than to engage on the part of Congress, that it should earnestly recommend the case of the Loyalists to the generous consideration of the respective states.

But would any prudent man have advised the continuation of a war, the successes of which were evidently so precarious, while a termination could be put to it without wounding the national honour by a dereliction of those friends whose demands were the only impediment to its conclusion. The facility with which these demands certainly could, and undoubtedly would cheerfully be answered by an opulent, generous, and equitable people, left no room to hesitate long between the continuing to spill the blood of two nations, who, though divided by the ocean, were in every other respect but one, and the hastening to reconcile them, and to bury in oblivion all the diffentions and calamities under which they were labouring.

From these motives the negotiation, which was almost expiring, on the sole account of what related to the Loyalists, had been resumed, and pursued with that alacrity which brought it so speedily to a completion. This very speed had indeed been heavily reprobated. It was no difficult task, said the opponents to the terms of the peace, to settle a dispute by making every concession that was required by the adverse party. But they who were so severe in their censure, ought to have reflected, that we were framing the conditions of a reconciliation, which in order to be permanent, should bear no marks of any design or inclination on our part to retain the least pretence to renew those claims we had given up, or to detract from those advantages which were yielded.

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When we proposed to enter into a treaty with the United States of America, it was not merely a cessation of hostilities we had in view, such as might take place with other powers at variance with us; the object in contemplation was of a far more important and extensive nature: we proposed an absolute abolition of all possible causes of enmity, and to give the Americans every proof in our power that we meant to treat them in the most amicable and benevolent manner they could expect and require.

Such being our desire, ought we not earnestly to strive, by every obvious means, to convince the Americans of our sincerity? Was it therefore consistent with such intentions to cavil about points, the most favourable decision of which in our favour, would only produce causes of discontent, and suspicion that we still entertained ideas repugnant to the sentiments of amity we professed, and that we waited only an opportunity to manifest them, to our advantage, and their detriment? If we seriously intended to recover the affection of the Americans, the readiest and surest method was to remove all occasion of jealousy, to treat them with a generous and manly confidence, and by setting them the example of forgiving and forgetting all that was past, to induce them to repay us with a cordial imitation.

Besides these considerations, every one of which must have decisive weight in the minds of dispassionate men, there was another of infinite importance in the present juncture of affairs. We were involved in a contest such as no nation ever experienced. We were contending with the two most powerful republics on the globe, Holland in the old, and America in the new world, and with the two most potent monarchies in the universe, France and Spain, True it was, we had through the valour of our people, and the greatness of our resources, made hitherto an honourable resistance: but we could not reasonably

reasonably expect to oppose much longer successfully such an host of enemies. The only probable means to extricate ourselves from the multiplicity of difficulties surrounding us, was by breaking this terrible confederacy. It was only by such a measure that Venice in the beginning of the sixteenth, and Holland in the last century, escaped a destruction which would otherwise have been unavoidable. But circumstances did not favour our endeavours to disunite our enemies. They still remained as firmly allied among themselves, and as perseveringly inveterate against this nation, as at the first moment of their confederacy. The only method to bring about its dissolution, was therefore a peace upon the best terms that could be procured.

The present was unquestionably the most auspicious moment to compass this desirable end. The victory of Lord Rodney over the French in the West Indies, the repulse of the combined efforts of the House of Bourbon at Gibraltar by General Elliott, and the relief of that place in the face of the whole naval strength of France and Spain by Lord Howe, were events, that while they immortalized the names of those great commanders, enabled Britain to demand honourable terms from her enemies. But though they were inclined, from our successes, to meet us upon a more equitable footing than before this return of good fortune, they still were too conscious of their own strength, to be so much cast down, as to depart from their original plan, which was to sever the British Colonies from the parent state.

Nor were they alone in this determination. There was not a state or potentate in Europe that did not openly or secretly entertain the same wishes. Whence this universal aim to diminish the power of Great Britain arose, was not the subject of discussion; but daily experience proved its existence, even among those

those who did not explicitly rank themselves among our foes.

Was it compatible with the safety of this country to remain any longer in such dangerous, or to speak more properly, in such desperate circumstances, while a fair opportunity offered to shake off at once all incumbrances, and regain such a footing of security, as to open a prospect of retrieving all our losses, and recovering our former lustre?

This happy opportunity, produced by the concurrence of the fortunate events just mentioned, ought therefore to be improved with all possible expedition, while the impression they had made on our enemies was yet fresh and forcible. Were we to suffer the surprise at these unexpected blows to subside, their confidence in the superiority of strength which they still possessed might soon return, and operate much more to our disadvantage than heretofore, from the additional care and arrangements with which the exercise of it would be accompanied. If we therefore consulted our interest, we should hasten to employ the present hour, and commit nothing to the chance of unpropitious accidents. Were we to meet with a reverse of fortune, the change would, according to all the rules of probability, prove finally decisive and fatal to this country, from the daily encreasing multitude of its declared or clandestine enemies.

In answer to this justification of the terms of peace, it was warmly asserted, that when duly considered, they were much more favourable to our enemies than they had any reason to expect, as would fully appear by a circumstantial examination.

That part of the coast of Newfoundland where the French were to enjoy an exclusive fishery, could not in reason be deemed less productive than that we retained. It had been specifically demanded as a proportionable share by the French ministry, and
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it were absurd to imagine they would knowingly have contented themselves with the worst.

The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were susceptible of more improvement in the article of fortification, and would prove of more utility in case of a war than had been represented. Their situation alone commanded the Gulf of St. Lawrence. When put into that state of strength which France would certainly not omit to give them, they must evidently greatly molest our fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, and interrupt our navigation to Canada.

The cession of Tobago and St. Lucia was a much more pernicious measure than people in general seemed aware of. In a commercial light, the first of these islands was of the highest importance: its cotton was the best in the West Indies; the second was a station of which the usefulness in war was continually manifested while in our possession. It was a constant check upon the operations of the enemy in those parts; it had enabled us essentially to watch the motions of their fleets, and, in consequence, to obtain that signal victory which had altered the situation of affairs so much in our favour.

By giving up Senegal and Goree, the gum trade lay wholly at the disposal of the French. On their representation at the peace of sixty-two, that without one of these places they should be wholly deprived of it, we had generously consented they should retain one; but as they would now possess both, our exclusion from that trade followed of course, unless we subscribed to their own terms. Gum was an article of indispensable necessity in various branches of our manufactories, those of silk and linen especially. The monopoly of it ought not therefore to have been ceded to our principal rivals in commerce, as well as our most dangerous enemies.

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The cessions to France in the East Indies were treated with the utmost severity. Here the enemy had no equivalent to restore, and yet had obtained concessions of the most important nature. The grants of territory around Pondicherry and Karikal were not only to be viewed in the light of additional conveniences, but as real accessions of power and influence to the French, and in no small measure as humiliations to the English in the eyes of the natives.

This part of the treaty was represented as highly prejudicial to our interest in India. Britain engaged in a manner to become the protectress of France in that country: this was a strain of complaisance ill agreeing with good policy; and the more blameable, as the arms of France in India had been less prosperous than any where. A short time would probably evince the erroneous conduct of those who yielded with such unnecessary facility to the request of a power, from which the experience of ages had taught us to apprehend every kind of enmity, when ever possessed of the ability to exercise it.

The permission now granted to France of carrying on its trade in those parts, in the same manner as it was done by the late French East India Company, was much too indefinite. It opened so large a field to their pretensions, that we should probably be soon obliged to oppose them by main force. Since the last peace we had enjoyed the privilege of searching their vessels, and prohibiting the importation of arms; but if they were now to be released from this examination, they would hardly abstain from conveying to Chandernagore all that was necessary to render it a strong and formidable settlement; which from its vicinity to our own, would necessarily endanger their safety, as well as detriment their trade.

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The suppression of the various stipulations regarding the harbour of Dunkirk, framed with so much solicitude at the peace of Utrecht, was adverted to with no less asperity. These stipulations were looked upon as so necessary at that time, that unless Lewis the Fourteenth had consented to them, no peace would have been made. The wisdom of our ministry at that epocha foresaw the consequence of suffering this harbour to remain in the condition it had been put by that monarch. Its basin was sufficiently deep and capacious to admit of at least thirty ships of great burthen. It was from thence an expedition was attempted in favour of the Pretender upon the coast of Scotland in the year seventeen hundred and eight. The fleet employed upon this occasion consisted of a number of vessels of considerable size.

! But what chiefly rendered Dunkirk an object of apprehension, should it be restored to its former state, was its proximity to the shores of England: it faced in a manner the mouth of the Thames; nothing could issue out of that river unobserved by that port. It would in time of war become a station for the stoutest privateers, and keep the trade of the British metropolis in continual alarms.

In this manner had France, though unsuccessful in the East, and defeated in the West Indies, when deprived of her fishery in the North American seas, and cut off from the most lucrative branches of the African trade, when her marine began visibly to decline, and ours to recover its ascendancy, in this inferiority of circumstances, had her negotiators been able to frame a treaty as advantageous to her as if the superiority lay entirely on her side.

The treaty with Spain underwent also some very severe strictures. By the cession of Minorca we had lost an island of the utmost importance to the support of our Mediterranean trade in war. Here our
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men of war, privateers, and merchantmen found a harbour to refit in case of damages received in fight, and a certain refuge from the enemy.

Whatever might be pleaded for the cession of West Florida, the surrendering of East Florida could not be justified. It was a spacious country, had an extensive coast, with some excellent harbours, remarkable for not being infested with the ship worms so common in the West Indies. It commanded an immense track of navigation by its peninsular position between the Gulf of Mexico and the coast of North America, and must in the hands of an enemy prove a great annoyance to our Jamaica trade. It possessed also no few internal resources, and was capable of much improvement. The people settled in it were firmly attached to the British government. But what chiefly recommended it at present, was the conveniency of its situation for the receptacle of the persecuted Loyalists. Here, without wandering far from their native soil, they would have found an asylum much more to their satisfaction than the uncomfortable climate of Nova Scotia.

The terms granted to America met in their turn with no less censure than the preceding. It was bitterly complained that the limits assigned to the dependencies of Britain and the United States, left these in possession of a multiplicity of strong places, constructed and fortified at a vast expence to this country, and which there appeared no valid reason for having ceded.

In consequence of this cession the principal part of the fur trade would fall into the hands of the Americans, notwithstanding our endeavours to represent the matter otherwise. We might have retained it wholly to ourselves, by keeping the immense tracts thus lavishly parted with to our enemies, who could have claimed but a moderate share of them,

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consistently with the circumstances they were in at the time of treating. We then held Charlestown in South Carolina, which gave us in a great measure the command of that province. We were masters of New York and the neighbouring isles, especially the large and important one of Long Island. These being the head quarters of the British armies, and lying in the centre of North America, kept the whole continent in awe. The Indian countries and nations contiguous to the back settlements were in our interest, and in the Colonies themselves we had numbers of zealous friends and adherents. Even among those who had professed themselves our enemies, multitudes were heartily desirous of terminating the war at all events, and did not scruple openly to express their sentiments.

The statement of the expences on account of Canada included those of the war. The balance of the trade carried on in that province was greatly in our favour, and promised a considerable increase. The merchants who were settled there, had from the conviction of the vast profits to be derived from the commerce they had established in the interior parts of the country, erected large magazines in the principal places of trade along the great lakes, and had laid out capital sums to fortify and render them convenient. These would now stand them in little stead, from the superior share which the Americans could not fail to derive of all the benefits produced in future by a commercial intercourse with the Indians, in consequence of the prodigious extent of territory so needlessly ceded by the treaty.

By these cessions we not only suffered a deprivation of the far greatest part of our fur trade, but incurred a disgrace that ought to wound still deeper the feelings of a spirited people. Upwards of twenty tribes of Indians in our alliance were deserted by us, without making a suitable provision

for their security against the resentment of the Americans.

The right of fishing on all the British coasts of America was allowed to the subjects of the United States in common with those of Great Britain, while these were denied the same privilege on the coasts of the former, notwithstanding the professions so strongly specified in the treaty, that its purport was to consult impartially the reciprocal advantages of both parties.

In return for the liberality, or rather profusion with which Britain had made so many concessions, the only article of any consequence insisted upon in its favour, had been denied with as much haughtiness and inflexibility, as if no advantages had been granted to America, and as if the peace was a meer act of condescension on the part of Congress.

The demand of restitution to the Loyalists of their property, confiscated during the war for their fidelity to our cause, had been refused by the American Commissioners, on pretence that neither they nor Congress itself could comply with it, any farther than by a recommendation of it to the different states. If such were the powers of Congress, or of those whom it commissioned to treat on its behalf, they were wholly inadequate to the proper purposes of treating, and tended only to delude those with whom they pretended to negotiate.

This demand was in itself so just, and founded on so many historical precedents, that Congress could not possibly plead a want of foresight that it would be made. It had been usual in all ages, on the cessation of a civil war, to grant a general amnesty. No other motives but those of the basest and most barbarous revenge, could induce men to express an averseness to so humane and necessary a measure. Next to the cruelty of such a refusal was the meanness of those who submitted to it.

Circumstances empowered this nation to have acted with such firmness, as to compel the Americans to relax of their obstinacy in this particular. Until they had consented to a generous treatment of the Loyalists, we ought to have withheld the restitution of the many strong places still remaining in our hands, and made the surrender of them the price of their acquiescence in our demands in favour of the brave and faithful people who had suffered so much upon our account.

Neither France nor Spain could in the nature of things have countenanced the republican inexorableness displayed by America upon this occasion. Fidelity to the Crown was a virtue too much prized in monarchies to lose any of its worth even in the eye of a hostile Court. Those of Versailles and Madrid valued it too much in their own subjects, not to show it respect in those of a monarch, with whom though they were at war, yet they had always testified a sufficient readiness to observe the laws of justice and generosity reciprocally established between civilized nations.

No apology could be made or admitted for so spiritless and flagitious a complaisance to the Americans. They affected to consider the Dutch in particular as models worthy of imitation in the manner with which they emancipated themselves from the Spanish yoke. But the Dutch had certainly set them no examples of vindictiveness: when they obtained a recognition of their independence, they generously agreed to an act of oblivion, and even restored to those who had adhered to the cause of Spain, their property of every denomination that had been confiscated, or the full value of it.

Spain had twice acted with no less lenity towards the Province of Catalonia; the first time on its revolting from that Crown, and calling in the assistance of France, during the last century, and after-

wards on its refusing to acknowledge the Bourbon family at the beginning of the present. In both cases all punishment was remitted on its returning to obedience : life, possessions, laws, and immunities remained inviolate.

England had conducted itself in the same manner at the Revolution towards that party in Ireland which had sided with James the Second. No proscriptions took place, and upon submitteing to government, every man was admitted to the undisturbed enjoyment of his property.

With these, and so many other examples before them, nothing could be more ungenerous and inhuman than the behaviour of the Americans towards those of their countrymen who had differed from them in opinion during the late contest, and had in consequence espoused the cause of Britain. It were more honourable for their character, as well as more consistent with good policy, to efface at once all remembrance of internal discords, and bring about a cordial reconciliation of all parties among them. This could only be accomplished by lenient measures ; all others were equally disgraceful to those who adopted, and to those who having it in their power, did not resolutely prevent them.

Such were the principal strictures passed by opposition on the terms of peace. They were answered on the part of ministry, by referring their opponents to the justification of it already laid before them. This they firmly contended must prove in every respect whatsoever, reasonable and satisfactory to all who divested themselves of party considerations, and would be at the pains of a candid and dispassionate examination.

They insisted, in particular, that by adverting with due attention to the tenour of the treaty, it was manifest that neither the Loyalists nor the Indian allies of Britain were relinquished in the man-

ner so invidiously represented. It had been carefully provided by an article framed for that very purpose, that no individual whatever should suffer either in his person or property on account of the part he might have taken in the war. By this it was clear, that though what was past could not be recalled, yet no severities in future would be exercised against the friends of Britain, and that their preceding conduct was secured from all retrospect.

As to the Indians in our alliance, they remained on the same footing as before the contest. Those that were included within the line of partition assigned to the United States, were no more delivered up to these than those within the boundaries prescribed to Britain were made over to this latter.—The obvious meaning of the treaty in adjusting these limits being no more than that neither of the contracting parties should form any settlements, or carry on any trade beyond them.

It could not therefore be asserted that the peace was either dishonourable or disadvantageous, considering the situation in which the imprudence and obstinacy of the ministry that pursued coercive measures against America had placed Great Britain. To this ministry, and to no other, would any honest man lay the imputation of having brought this country into those difficulties which had made it necessary to agree to those concessions that were so heavily censured? But whoever thought proper to reprobate these, it ill became those men to assume such a liberty, from whose mal-administration they originally arose.

Nor were the advocates of ministry wanting in insinuations that it was not so much the peace, as the places and power of those who had brought it to a conclusion, that irritated their opponents. This topic was urged with a warmth and acrimony not inferior to what had been experienced on any former

mer occasion between the contending parties. Nothing, it was said, but the lust of power could have wrought a coalition between men so discordant in principle as those who were united at present against ministry. They had for years opposed each other with a violence that bordered upon indecency: they had differed in every measure, in every idea relating to the government of this country. Their mutual rancour hurried them into personalities and invectives that hardly knew any limitations. Whence could therefore so strange and unnatural a reconciliation between them proceed, but from selfish and interested motives?

Opposition retorted these reproaches with no less asperity. It was not the peace, said they, which they condemned; it was the manifest precipitation with which it was concluded that offended all cool and reasoning individuals. It was the scandalous facility with which ministry had yielded to the demands of our enemies; that induced men of all parties to join in the severest censure upon them. This union of sentiments in reprobating them, was produced by the general indignation that was felt at their conduct. Its absurdity and its weakness were so apparent, that even those who could accord in nothing else, agreed with the most perfect unanimity in stigmatizing the framers of a peace which was evidently founded on ignorance and pusillanimity. No ministry that was not totally blind to the interests of this nation, and to the advantageous circumstances in which it stood at the time of the treaty, would have consented to the terms which had rendered it so odious. No man of spirit, in any circumstances, would have submitted to those articles in it that were so unworthy of the dignity and character of the British nation.

From these causes alone arose that coalition so hateful to ministry. This coalition, should it be

improved into a sincere reconciliation of the parties that composed it, would prove a most happy and auspicious event to this country in its present situation. Coalitions of this kind had more than once saved it in the hour of danger. It was by the union of different parties during the last war, that its termination was so glorious. The great Lord Chatham was at the head of this coalition; and it was an acquisition of honour to his character that he so readily acquiesced in so beneficial a measure.

It was by a still more universal coalition the Revolution itself was effected, and the foundation laid of that political establishment which this country has so much reason to prize. From these, and other precedents that might be adduced, it was highly unjust to cast a reproach upon men for laying aside their private animosities, and uniting for the sake of the public. Men that were capable of such a sacrifice of their feelings, instead of being accused of selfishness, deserved to be held out as patterns of the most real and useful patriotism.

The persons who were now at the head of opposition, had lately been the principal leaders of the two parties that had so long divided us. This was unquestionably the most desirable circumstance in their present coalition. The acknowledged eminence of their respective abilities would carry such a weight and influence into the transaction of business, as would enable them, should they be advanced to power, to constitute what was most wanted in this country, a ministry possessed of popular esteem and confidence. This alone could effectually strengthen the hands of government, and terminate those discords that had been so fatal to this nation.

A variety of other arguments were produced in this celebrated contest, which was supported with unabated fervour on each side during the space of
a whole

a whole night. It was eight in the ensuing morning before a division took place; when the ministerial address on the peace was rejected by a majority of sixteen; two hundred and eight voting for, and two hundred and twenty-four against it.

In the House of Lords ministry was more fortunate: the address moved by them was carried in their favour by seventy-two votes against fifty-nine.

Four days after this debate, opposition, encouraged by its success on the seventeenth, moved in consequence of it, that the concessions made to the enemies of Great Britain, were greater than they were entitled to, on a comparative view of their situation and that of this country.

This motion revived the preceding altercation; but opposition again remained victorious, by a majority of seventeen: one hundred and ninety voting for ministry, and two hundred and seven against them.

Thus ended the parliamentary debates occasioned by the treaty of peace. They were no less vehement, and of much longer duration out of Parliament. An inundation of writings filled the public on this subject; and rendered it for a long time a cause of incessant bickerings and disputes, which the many interesting objects which have since occupied the attention of this country have not yet completely quieted.

In the mean time a negotiation had been opened with the States-General at the Hague. On the dissolution of the ministry in the end of March eighty-two, proposals of a separate and immediate peace were laid before them by that which succeeded.—But notwithstanding the cordiality and condescension which accompanied this offer, the councils of the States were under such influence, that it was rejected, though the conditions proffered them were the most advantageous they could possibly

require, being a renewal of the famous treaty of sixteen hundred seventy-four, by which they would have secured all their requisitions from this country.

At the close of the year, after the provisional treaty with America had been concluded, and while those with France and Spain were in forwardness, the Dutch ministers at Paris proposed a negotiation with the British minister at that Court, on the terms offered to them in the month of April preceding; but they met with a refusal in their turn, and were given to understand, that having put a negative on the endeavours of Great Britain to effect a particular reconciliation with Holland, that country had no right to expect any more than to be placed on the same footing as other powers.

Preliminary articles of peace being however agreed upon between Great Britain, on the one part, and by France and Spain on the other, in January ensuing, a suspension of arms took place at the same time with respect to Holland; by which the Dutch were included in the general pacification. But notwithstanding the definitive arrangements among the other belligerent powers, in consequence of the restoration of peace, were finally concluded by the commencement of September, it was not till then that the States-General came to a preliminary settlement with Great Britain.

The terms of the treaty were a reciprocal restitution of all the places and territories taken on either side, the settlement of Negapatnam in the East Indies excepted: this was to remain in the possession of Great Britain, unless an equivalent was given in its stead.

The navigation of the Eastern seas was to be free and unmolested to the British shipping in all parts.

These two articles were the only objects deserving of particular consideration in the treaty; the remain-

remainder consisting of the mutual restoration of prisoners, and of such other adjustments and stipulations as are usual in all treaties of peace.

It was observed on this occasion, that the ill success predicted by politicians to the Dutch, on their siding against the English, was strictly and literally verified. The Seven United Provinces, hurried away by a blind enthusiasm in favour of the United States of America, and fascinated, as it were, by a similitude of appellation, imagined that there was a near resemblance in the causes that occasioned, as well as in the circumstances that accompanied the change of their respective governments from a monarchy into a republic.

In consequence of this idea, they forgot the natural ties that bound their interest so firmly with that of Great Britain. Impelled by the narrow maxims of a commercial jealousy, improvident of all concerns but those of the present hour, they unwisely gave ear to the clamours of an interested faction, deluded by the prospect of benefits that were at best transitory and precarious.

No state in Europe had a fairer opportunity of displaying both its policy and spirit. An honourable adherence to the interest of Great Britain, which the experience of two centuries had so forcibly proved to be their own, would have operated as an effectual check upon that power it chiefly behoves them to keep within bounds. No great exertions would have been requisite for the due accomplishment of this purpose: little more, perhaps, than a respectable footing of neutrality, or, at most, a resolute and explicit determination to preserve inviolate, in case of real necessity, their friendship and engagements with this country, would have sufficed, in conjunction with the acting strength of Britain, to deter its enemies from forming that
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combination which cost it such a profusion of blood and treasure to resist.

A conduct framed upon such principles, would, in the persuasion of competent judges, have answered every desirable end. It would have upheld that character of consistency and foresight, for which they had so long and so deservedly been noted. It would have secured that independent situation which they had hitherto so happily maintained; and it would have prevented the degradation of being at length compelled to commit themselves to the protection of a power whose ambition was proverbial in the political world, and the effects of which no people had more woefully experienced than themselves.

Next to Holland, that member of the confederacy against Britain which suffered most was Spain. The recovery of Minorca and of the Floridas, was but a poor compensation for the prodigious expence and loss of men incurred at Gibraltar, and in the various naval expeditions and manifold exertions that monarchy was obliged to make, in pursuance of its engagements with France and its American allies.

What rendered its conduct the more blameable in the eyes of all sound politicians, and of far the greatest majority of its own people, was the dangerous situation in which the issue of the war placed the Spanish possessions in America. Europe has but one idea on this subject; which is, that Spain acted with the highest imprudence in contributing to the independence of the British Colonies. It will, in all likelihood, be the first power that will experience the consequence of a proximity to a people that inherit in a conspicuous degree the courage and enterprising disposition of the nation from which they draw their origin, and that have already given sufficient proofs that they will omit no opportunity of extending their limits, and carrying their commerce

merce as far as their power and circumstances will enable them.

France itself, though it compassed that object so long and so ardently in its wishes, the dismemberment of the British empire, was deemed at the period of the peace, to have paid much too dear a price for the attainment of this end. The resources of that kingdom were so exhausted, and its finances so completely reduced, that in the beginning of October eighty-three, a month after the definitive treaty of peace had been signed by the respective parties, the Bank of Paris, supported by the whole strength of government, stopped payment.

But exclusive of this event, the alarmingness of which the French have endeavoured in vain to extenuate, strong indications soon appeared in a variety of instances, how incredibly short of their expectations those benefits would prove, which they were so sanguine in promising themselves upon the emancipation of the British Colonies from their dependence on the parent state.

Nor did the United States of America appear in the eye of many sagacious observers, to have obtained any real advantages by the alteration of their political system. Whatever might be their future destiny, it was evident that years would pass before they could arrive at a permanent and satisfactory settlement of their internal affairs, and recover from the disorder into which they had been thrown by the violent state of hostilities in which they had so long continued. Their commerce, on which they founded such extensive prospects, would probably long feel the want of the sustaining hand of Britain, and afford them complete proofs that their separation from this country was not attended with those beneficial consequences that had been held out to them with so much confidence.

Britain, on the other hand, though deprived of those Colonies she had planted and reared with so much

much care, and protected with so much glory, still remained an object of terror and admiration to all her enemies. With a spirit superior to all difficulties, and with resources, though deeply tried, yet far from exhausted, she still appeared great and respectable. From their consciousness of the strength and courage she yet possessed, her opponents were no less, if not even more desirous to put an end to the quarrel than herself. They fully saw she was able and determined to continue it, sooner than submit to a degradation of her character, by accepting of such terms as they had proposed in the height of their expectations to impose upon her.

The events of the last campaign dwelt ineffaceably on their reflections. The successes obtained by Great Britain, and the valour through which they were accomplished, had fixed the attention of all Europe, and extorted the applause even of many who had hitherto appeared indifferent to her fate: France and Spain in particular, were not without apprehensions, that the other European powers not immediately interested in this contest, and beyond the reach of their influence, might at length open their eyes to the danger to which they exposed themselves, by permitting the House of Bourbon to carry on its designs against England uncontrouled.

Swayed by these considerations, nor less by the domestic distresses arising from the deranged state of their finances, they came to the resolution of desisting from the vast pretensions they had formed, and of contenting themselves with the grant of independence to the Colonists of North America; leaving to these the more arduous task of rendering, if it were possible, this scission of the British empire beneficial to them, and detrimental to Britain.

Whatever strictures may have been passed upon the terms agreed on between Great Britain and the other belligerent powers, there was a time when it

was much doubted by the generality of people, both at home and abroad, whether peace could ever be purchased without making far greater sacrifices. Though the concessions made to the enemies of this country might perhaps have been less, they were by no means considered throughout Europe as disparaging to the British nation. It was thought, on the contrary, that the confederacy, by closing so readily with them, betrayed their apprehensions of what might prove the consequence of continuing hostilities, and from that motive determined to put a conclusion to them, upon the most favourable conditions they could procure.

Such, it was judged, were the reasons that induced them to enter into negotiations for peace, under the ostensible mediation of the Emperor of Germany, and the Empress of Russia.

In this manner was terminated the most important war that had been waged since the discovery of the new world. Both hemispheres seemed intimately conscious how deeply they were concerned in its issue. In Europe, at its very commencement it was fully perceived, that were Britain to lose the sovereignty over her Colonies, a new system of politics must necessarily arise, which would probably diffuse itself in process of time to every part of the globe.

In this great revolution, the European states possessed of dominions in America, beheld an immense portion of the earth, hitherto subject to their obedience, and subservient to their designs, animated by the successful example of a numerous proportion of its inhabitants, to throw off this yoke, and claim independence. An event of this kind, by confining them to the limits of their own country, would of course produce an universal alteration of their politics and interests, and oblige

oblige them to adopt new maxims of conduct both in their domestic and foreign concerns.

Those powers, on the other hand, who had no territories in America, still would greatly participate in the effects of this mighty change, through the connexions already subsisting, and the new correspondence that would ensue in consequence of it, between the European nations, in every branch of political and commercial intercourse.

Great Britain, in the mean while, though seemingly the most liable to be affected by this immense loss of territory, would probably, through the excellence of her constitution, and the wisdom of her government, but, above all, through the genius, the industry, and the persevering disposition of her people, retain the advantages and consequence that had so long resulted from them, and still maintain the figure she had made among the European powers.

Among those truths which it most concerns mankind to know, the British nation had conspicuously proved, that the splendor and felicity of a state does by no means depend on the extent of its territorial possessions, so much as on the improvement of those opportunities which are derived from nature and situation. These were benefits of which no vicissitudes of fortune could deprive this country; and it was upon the unvarying experience of their past efficacy, the confidence of its future prosperity was founded.

This truth had at no time been so powerfully elucidated, as during this terrible contest. Dispossessed of those Colonies, upon which, it had been repeatedly affirmed, her greatness principally depended; opposed by them with a force equal in strength and spirit to that of her most formidable enemies; assailed by these in every quarter; attacked by her ancient allies, and abandoned by all
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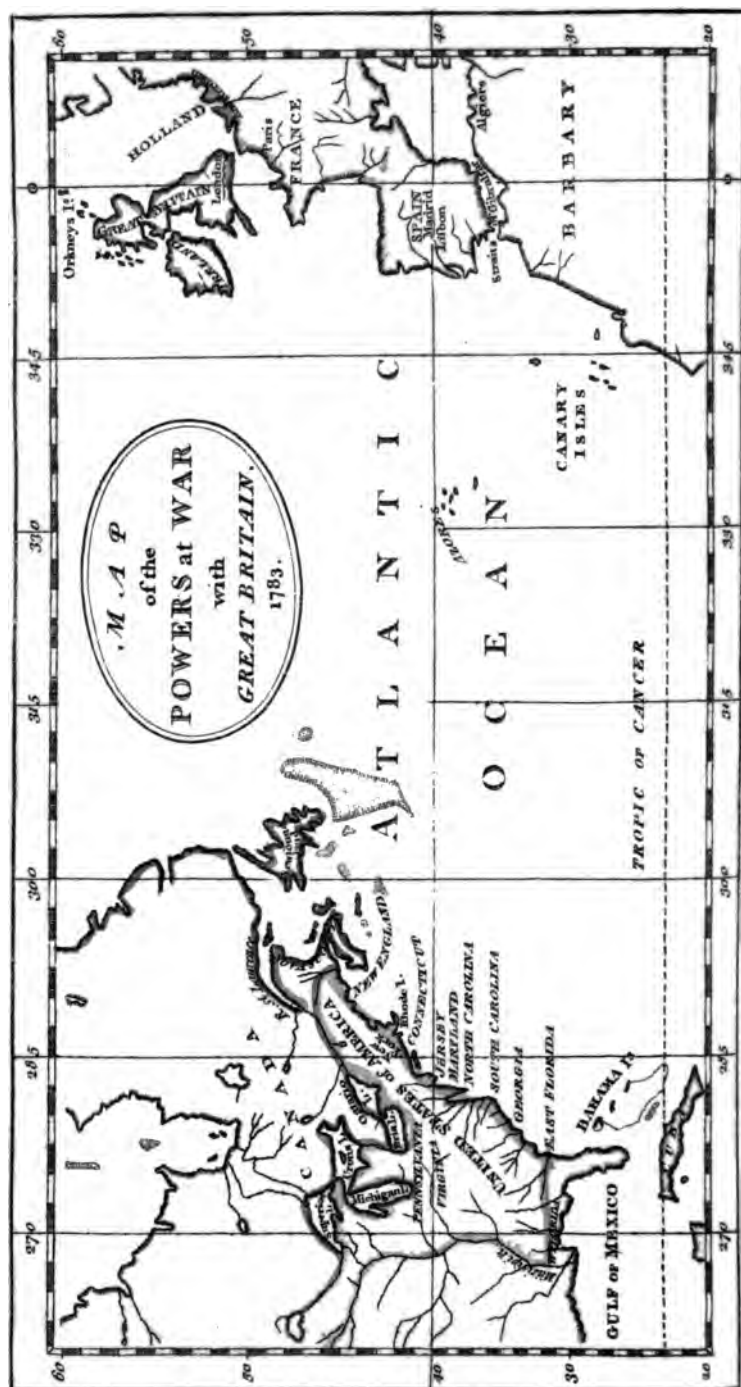
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the world; in this tremendous situation, cut off from a variety of her former commercial resources, and relying wholly on herself, she still found means to confront the most powerful combination that ever was recorded in history.

She fought her foes by sea and land, wherever she expected to find them. The damages done to them far exceeded those she received. On the sea especially their trade was ruined, and their navies suffered losses incomparably superior to her own. The balance against them at the close of the war amounted to twenty-eight ships of the line, and thirty-seven frigates, carrying altogether near two thousand guns.

Having sustained this dreadful conflict with so much glory, and terminated it so honourably, without the least assistance or interference, against such an host of enemies, she came out of all her difficulties not only without the least blemish to her reputation, but with an increase of fame that raised her character to a higher degree of eminence than it had ever obtained before.

In the general war at the opening of this century, for the succession to the Crown of Spain, she was assisted by Holland in humbling Lewis the Fourteenth. During the war carried on under the administration of Lord Chatham, she had a potent ally in the King of Prussia; but in the present she stood alone and unsupported against three of the greatest powers in Europe, abetted by all the rest, at the same time that she was involved in a most violent and expensive quarrel with her American Colonies, now become through their union a formidable state.

From this convincing proof of her intrinsic strength, and of the immensity of her own resources, divested of all external aid, it was not doubted, that notwithstanding the heavy burthen of her public

public debts, she would, by a prudent management of her affairs, still continue to flourish as much as ever. As she had in the midst of her severest trials kept her national faith with all those who had entrusted her with their property, there was no ground to suspect she would be reduced to the necessity of forfeiting it when delivered from the perplexities that had compelled her to make such additions to the vast sums she already owed. Prodigious as this accumulation of loans for so many years must appear in the eyes of the world, there is not a state in Europe in whose funds individuals place their treasures with so much confidence as in those of Britain.

Such were the ideas and reasonings of the most intelligent politicians both in England and in foreign parts, at the period of the late pacification. It remains to be hoped, that the rulers of this nation will by their wisdom in the management of its future concerns, do full credit to the judgment and sagacity of those who have formed such auspicious expectations in its favour.

F I N I S.



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